

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 70 No. 06 02-07-17

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald..Scotland  
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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## WEB PAGE

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IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Jesus and Money

Hiram Kemp

One of Jesus' favorite topics was money. Jesus often used money in his parables to discuss stewardship or to talk about the covetous spirit that can ruin us all (Mt. 25:14-30; Lk. 12:13-21). When Jesus went into the temple, of all the places where he could have sat he chose to sit near the treasury (Mk. 12:41). Jesus used money in his teaching because it was practical and would grab the listener's attention. He also knows that our relationship to money will influence our relationship with God. In the time Jesus lived, much like today, many people thought their value was determined by their net worth. Jesus taught that such was not the case. Let's notice a couple of lessons that Jesus taught about money.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus warned: "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt. 6:24). Every one of us must make the decision of who we will serve (Josh. 24:15). It is possible to place such an emphasis on making money that money becomes our god. Money is a miserable master, and we need to be aware of this temptation. Jesus did not say it was a bad idea to try and serve God and material possessions, he said it could not be done. While idols do not care if we divide time between them and someone else, the God of heaven will not accept this (Ex. 20:5). Will we serve the green piece of paper in our wallet or the God of heaven? Will we bow before the flimsy piece of plastic in our pocket or the one who upholds the world by his power (Heb. 1:3)? Jesus wants us to know we cannot serve both, the right choice of course is to serve God. Jesus goes on to say that while we have physical needs, God is aware of this. If we seek the kingdom first, God will provide the things we need to sustain physical life (Mt. 6:25-34).

Another thing Jesus says about money is: "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses" (Lk. 12:15). There is more to us than the things we possess. Jesus lived a sinless life while on earth. He never mis-spoke, lusted, or made a mistake (Heb. 4:14-15). Yet for all his spiritual perfection, Jesus did not have a bucket to draw water when he talked with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (Jn. 4:11). On one occasion, Jesus said he had nowhere to lay his head (Mt. 8:20). While taking the vow of poverty will not make one more spiritual, Jesus shows that material wealth does not equate to spiritual wealth. While we may not have a lot of money in the bank, if we are in Christ, we have every spiritual blessing, and we can rejoice in that fact (Eph. 1:3). Jesus wants us to have the right relationship with him, and this means we will view money properly. Money should not master us nor should we let it define us.

# Christians and Money

Hiram Kemp

Every good gift that we have in life comes from God, including our money (Jas. 1:17). While we go to work, and have different abilities that result in a paycheck, who gave us the talents and ability to work? God is the one to be credited for what we have in life regardless of how we labor. Without him there would be no way to survive (Acts 17:28). So many people have a misunderstanding about money as it relates to the Christian life. What should the Christian know about money, and what does it have to do with his or her spiritual life? Let us notice three things that every Christian should know about money.

**Money Is Not a Bad Thing** Many verses in the Bible have been misused through the years, none perhaps more than First Timothy 6:10. So many believe that Paul wrote “money is the root of all evil.” The truth is Paul wrote, “the love of money is the root of all evil.” Money is not a bad thing, as long as it is kept in its proper perspective, and even when money is not viewed properly, it is not the money that is misbehaving but the one using money in the wrong way. God has given us all good things to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17). If our hope is in God and not in our money, we need to know that money is not our enemy. Money is used for a lot of good in God’s kingdom: support of local preachers, support of missionaries to foreign fields, assisting orphan homes and widows in need. While Jesus once told a rich young man to sell everything he had and follow him, we need to realize this was because the rich young ruler had an unhealthy relationship with money (Mt. 19:21). This was not Jesus’ regular advice for everyone. The problem is not how much money we have, but how much money has us (Col. 3:5). Money can be used for good and Christians use it for this purpose.

**Our Use of Money Says a Lot About Us** If someone pulled our bank statement and saw where we spend money, he or she would know an awful lot about us. How we use money shows what we think is important and what matters most to us. Paul told the Corinthian’s that the proof of their love would be demonstrated by how they supported the relief effort in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:24). If we say that the Gospel and its proclamation are the most important things in the world and we fail to back up that claim with our resources, we are deceiving ourselves. I am aware that a man does not have to give every dime of his money to the church to be greatly concerned with the work of the Lord. However, we should not try to see what is the least that we can get by with giving God, while saying we love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We need to show our money who’s boss and this is done in our giving. The way that we sow is the way that we reap; there’s no other way around this (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Like the woman at Bethany who used the expensive perfume to anoint Jesus, we should do what we can (Mk. 14:8). What matters most to you in the world? What will matter most in eternity? Whatever your answers to those questions may be, does your bank account agree?

**Giving Is Better Than Receiving** I’m sure we all could quote Paul’s statement in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”, but do we really believe that? Notice Paul did not say we will be more blessed if we give than if we receive. He says it’s just better for us. It is healthy for our soul to give money away, especially to the Lord’s work. We need to know that God owns everything and not us. Giving allows us to participate in works we may never be able to join in physically. The Philippians had credit that abounded toward their spiritual account because they assisted Paul in his work financially (Phil. 4:17). While many of the Philippians may never preach like Paul did or work the miracles he performed, they shared a part in his work because of the contribution they made. The congregation here at South Florida Avenue has always been a benevolent church. May we be encouraged to abound more and more in this (1 Thess. 4:10). When we give to those less fortunate than us, we follow the model of Jesus (2 Cor. 8:9). Everyone likes to receive gifts, especially money, but the Bible teaches we are always benefited more when we are on the giving side of this equation. Let us remember to keep our hearts and our palms open. It will be better for us in the long run.

The Bible has a lot to say about money. This should not make us feel uncomfortable. Jesus is Lord of our lives and Lord of our finances as well. Let us remember, money is not a bad thing and money is one of the resources created by God for our good. Our use of money is not the only thing that defines us but it does say a lot about our priorities. Lastly, money given is better than money received. We cannot take a dime of our money to heaven with us, but let us rejoice in the truth that we won’t need it when we get there. Think of money in the right way, Christian, and use it to the glory of God.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Dick and Joyce Burbage have not been well lately. Bruce Longfellow is scheduled to have knee surgery Mon. Feb 6th at L.R.M.C. He requests no visitors. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Jacqueline Dopwell, Kenny French, JoAnn Hoback, Bill Long, Sharon Washington, Carol Eason, Elizabeth Tubbs, Josephine Bowman and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Sarah Blevins, Willie Williams, Owen Lewis and Bobby Cole.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

**Others:** Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Kim Gustafson, Leah Carroll, Carmen Carro and Jack Pinkert.

## Upcoming Events

**February 12th:** Please let our youth honor the young at heart, older members in "A Seussical Sweet Treat," at 4:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please R.S.V.P. on the list in the foyer.

**February 18th:** Youth Seminar at the Orange Street Church of Christ. Lunch will be provided so please R.S.V.P. to 863-967-1757.

**February 18th:** Men's Breakfast here at South Florida Ave. at 8:00 a.m.

**February 19th:** There will be a Ladies planning meeting to prepare for the Ladies Brunch that South Florida Ave. will be hosting in April.

**Feb. 26th- Mar.2nd:** Gospel Meeting at the North Lakeland Church of Christ. See the bulletin board for more details.

## Hither Thither and Yon

Dolly Martin will be going back home to Jamaica and asks for prayers for safe travels.

## Thank You

Dear brothers and sisters, Bill, Nancy and I so appreciate all your acts of care and concern. The calls, cards and prayers are so much a part of us getting better. Please continue to include us in your thoughts and prayers.

In his name, Bill & Carlene Long.

## Visitors

Isaiah & Lisa Irwin, Sandra Foust, Tiffany Hash and Samuel and Megan, Jerry & Jennifer Scarbrough and Valerie Moore.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### February

David Anderson ..... **Table** ..... David Williams  
Paul Romine ..... **Assist** ..... Robert Cooper

### Sunday, February 12, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Prayer**..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Kenny French  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Steve Hunley  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... Debra and Melissa  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul and Sebastian  
**Closing Prayer**..... Jeff Bingle  
**Open & Close Building**..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 15, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Phil Fife  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231 or 602-9005*

### Sunday, February 19, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Kenny French  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Paul Romine  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Bingles  
**Att. Cards**..... Antonio and Paul  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal  
**Open & Close Building**..... Bobby Sheumaker

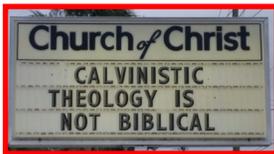
Wed. February 22, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... Matt Willcut  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tucker Sweeney

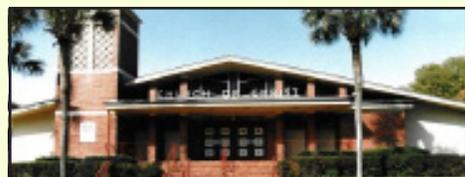
## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 15.....	\$5,002.50
Jan. 22 .....	\$4,759.20
Jan. 29.....	\$5,875.61
Feb. 05.....	\$7,001.76
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$5,528.54</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# Calvinism (part 3) "Unconditional Predestination"



Calvinism claims that God unconditionally elected from eternity those who will be saved and those who will be lost, and this number is unchangeable (Ephesians 1:4-11). Thus, if a man is "elected" to salvation, then there is nothing he can do to change it. Likewise, if a man is "elected" to damnation there is nothing he can do to change it. One of the passages they abuse is Romans 8:29-30, where God said, "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined ... whom He predestined, these He also called." The Bible does speak of election and predestination, but such is always conditional. The Gospel system is the process of election. Foreknowledge and predestination are not the same as God forcing one to be saved or lost. For example, the Lord knew that Judas would betray Him (John 13:21-27), but He did not force Judas to betray Him. God has always dealt with mankind on the principle of conditions. Consider what David said to Solomon, "If you seek Him [the God of David], He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever" (1 Chronicles 28:9). Consider also that God does not show partiality, "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (Acts 10:35 cf. Romans 2:11). This principle alone destroys this point of Calvinism. To unconditionally determine who will or will not be saved is out of line with God's character. If this doctrine were true, then God's invitations to come to Him would be meaningless, yet "the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17) ❤️ Brian



South Florida Avenue  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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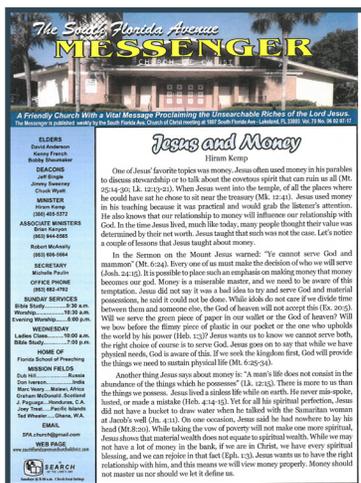
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

## Do You Still Want This Bulletin? Then, Have It Delivered Your Way!



The Post Office, like any other business trying to keep up with this fast-paced, save-a-dollar culture in which we live, has been undergoing changes in the way they handle mail. These constant changes give us opportunity to reevaluate our bulletin distribution. Please let the office know how you would like to receive this bulletin.

- 1.** Pick up a copy Wednesday night or Sunday. Probably the most practical for our members. The actual bulletin would be clean and crisp; it would save labor, and it would cost no postage!
- 2.** Have the church email you an electronic version. Probably the most practical for our out of town friends and family. It would be quick delivery; it would save labor and cost no postage!
- 3.** Receive it from the Post Office in your mailbox. We realize some may still want it the "old fashioned way," and we are perfectly fine with that! **Let us know by March 1**