



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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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.....6:30 p.m.

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Florida School of Preaching
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Areas of Life Where Children Need Warning (part 1)

Brian R. Kenyon

While reading through the Book of Proverbs, the Bible student will notice several sections where the God-breathed writer explicitly addressed, “My son” or “My children.” Since these were areas of life in which the wise man thought it appropriate to teach his children, these are also areas of life about which parents today need to teach their children. The proper application of biblical principles in these areas of life can make the difference between a faithful child and an apostate child, and/or a “glad father” and “the heaviness of his mother” (Pr. 10:1). In this article, we will consider two areas about which parents need to teach and warn their children.

The Criminal Crowd

My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. ¹¹If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; ¹²Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; ¹³We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; ¹⁴Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse” — ¹⁵My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; ¹⁶For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; ¹⁸But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. ¹⁹So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners. (Pr. 1:10-19)

The Hebrew word translated “sinners” refers to “those [who are] habitually addicted to crime,” such as “thugs” or “gang members” (Smith, 476). This warning is extremely relevant in today’s society because many young people, both in and out of the church, have become members of gangs. These “gangs” may not be the type that wear leather jackets and spray-paint graffiti on public buildings, but any group that lures young people away from biblical values is just as damaging so far as eternity is concerned. “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Cor. 15:33). At least part of the reason why children join gangs can be attributed to the lack of attention many of these children receive at home. Parents must remember that their children at home are to be a priority when it comes to their time. In fact, next to a spouse (Gen. 2:24), the most important earthly relationship parents have is with their children!

These alternative-to-godly-values peer groups can offer a life of adventure (i.e., “lie in wait to shed blood,” Pr. 1:11), a life of perceived authority over other, lesser beings (i.e., “swallow them alive,” Pr. 1:12), a life of riches (i.e., “We shall find ... precious possessions,” Pr. 1:13), and an all-for-one-and-one-for-all life of comradery (i.e., sharing “one purse,” Pr. 1:14).

Those who pursue this way of life end tragically (Pr. 1:15-19). A child of wisdom must avoid these kinds of peer groups (Pr. 1:15). The life of these gangsters is a life of violence and despair (Pr. 1:16). These sinners are so blinded to their own destructive ways that they are headed to their own, self-created disaster (Pr. 1:17-18). In fact, “every one who is greedy for gain” falls into this same category and will meet the same end (Pr. 1:19). Elsewhere, the wise man wrote, “He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house” (Pr. 15:27). In contrast to the end of these sinners, “the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day” (Pr. 4:18).

Parents and grandparents must warn their children and grandchildren against the dangers of these gangs of sinners. The best way to safeguard children and grandchildren from being attracted to gangs is for parents and grandparents to spend time with their children and grandchildren. Giving children adequate attention and a feeling of belonging in the family will greatly reduce possible attraction to gangs.

The Partying Crowd

Since many children and grandchildren fall away because they get caught up in the partying crowd, they must be taught not to choose for their friends those who love to spend their time partying. The wise man wrote, “Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way. Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags” (Pr. 23:19-21).

That wine is dangerous and drunkenness is destructive is clear from Proverbs 23:29-35, but the meaning of Proverbs 23:19-21 goes deeper than that fact. “Drunkard” and “glutton” are “the epitome of the lack of discipline” (Ross, 1071). Excessive eating and drinking are usually symptoms of a deeper problem. It is the deeper problem of intemperance, or lack of self-control, that leads to the poverty of the drunkard and the glutton and all who follow their example (cf. Pr. 20:1; Isa. 28:7-8; Hos. 4:11). Excessive indulgence fills the person who parties with “drowsiness,” and thus makes him or her unfit for work, and those unfit for work are eventually overcome with poverty (cf. Pr. 19:15).

Parents and grandparents must teach their children and grandchildren about the dangers of making friends of those who spend their time partying. It is popular among many in the present culture, especially among some high school and college age peers, to be known as a “partier.” Parents and grandparents must teach and exemplify sobriety, self-control, and the value of an “honest day’s work.”

Conclusion

Our children and grandchildren are faced with many more ways of being tempted than previous generations. However, the basic instructions and warnings found in Proverbs still form a solid foundation to resist ruin in key areas of life, including those with whom we seek friendship. This wise counsel still holds true: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck” (Pr. 1:7-9).

Works Cited

Ross, Allen P. “Proverbs.” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Vol. 5. Ed. Frank E. Gaebelin. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991.
 Smith, James E. *The Wisdom Literature and Psalms*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996.

Upcoming Events
February
15-17 — Ladies Retreat @ WWCC
18-21 — Don Blackwell @ Sebring Parkway
23-25 — YES Weekend (Valdosta)
25-29 — Joshua Cantrell @ North Lakeland
March
22-24 — Steven Ford @ SFA
29-31 — Lads to Leaders (Orlando)

THINGS FOR WHICH TO PRAY

1. Forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:22-24).
2. Help in time of temptation (Mt. 6:13).
3. Daily needs (Mt. 6:11).
4. Government leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2).
5. The sick (Jas. 5:14).
6. Laborers to enter harvest (Mt. 9:38).
7. God’s word to be glorified (2 Thes. 3:1).
8. God’s children (Phil. 1:9-11).
9. God’s will to be done (Mt. 6:10; 26:39).

PRAYER LIST

Current: Stacey Paulin received the injection but got no relief. Pray for patience and strength while he continues to be in great pain. **Marion Beals** has been sick but is doing better. **Ronny and Debbie Lynn** were in an auto accident and are sore but hope to be back soon.

Continual: **Debbie Bush** (struggles); **Antoine & Marcella Swain** (health); **Bill & Carlene Long** (health & strength); **Ron Ford** (health); **Linda Simpson** (health); **Annett Phillip** (health); **Janie Wise** (health); **Margaret Coone** (health); **Melissa Craft** (health); **Kathy Nester** (health); **Jim Turner** (health)

Shut-ins: **Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin**

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

Sandy Hutchins, the sister of Becky Sheumaker passed away peacefully at hospice last Saturday. There will be no funeral service, but a celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. Please keep Becky and the family in your prayers.



THE SEBRING PARKWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
invites you to attend a

GOSPEL MEETING



with
**DON
BLACKWELL**
of
**Cookeville,
Tennessee**

"QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED"

<p>Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00 a.m. "Is Technology Killing God's People?" Sunday Morning Worship Assembly - 10:00 a.m. "What is Your Life but a Vapor?" Sunday Morning Third Hour - 11:15 a.m. "Is Your Heart Right with God?" Monday Evening Worship Assembly - 7:00 p.m. "What is True Repentance?" Tuesday Evening Worship Assembly - 7:00 p.m. "What will the Day of Judgment be Like?" Wednesday Evening Worship Assembly - 7:00 p.m. "Do I Need to be Rebaptized?" (LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 1:00 P.M. ON SUNDAY.)</p>	<p>THE SEBRING PARKWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETS AT 3800 SEBRING PARKWAY IN SEBRING, FLORIDA. *** For more information, please call (863) 385-7443, or e-mail us at sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com.</p>
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FEBRUARY 18-21, 2024

The Elders would like to meet with each SFA family to hear your ideas, concerns and questions. They will be at the building on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please call the office of set up a time and day that works best for your family.

"Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."
Hebrews 13:17

Gospel Meeting
N. Lakeland church of Christ
Feb. 25-29, 2024
Speaker: Josh Cantrell
See Flyer for times and details.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday Feb. 17, 2024
9:00 AM
Central church of Christ
Haines City



Scheduled to Serve in February	
Designated Elder	David Anderson
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	
Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Tucker Sweeney
Devotional / Invitation	Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer	Bobby Sheumaker
Sunday, February 18, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Rick Kenyon
"Recipe for Idolatry" (Ex. 32:1-6)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Jarred Spivey
"The Keys to Prosperity" (Psalm 1)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Estridge's
Song/Pray before class	Brian Kenyon
Announcements (both)	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader (both)	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Wesley Brunson
Lord's Table (both)	Brian Williams
Closing Prayer	Josh Estridge
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	Caelan/Camron
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	VanAllen's
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Closing Prayer	Roberson Louissaint
Wednesday, February 21, 2024	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Kurtis Leaks
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcutt
How We Are Giving	
January 28	\$5,947.63
February 4	\$10,077.00
February 11	\$7,192.00
Contribution Average	\$7,880.80
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

PEOPLE ARE THE WORK

Hug the lonely,
Hold their hand.
Bear their load,
It's nothing grand.

Show her the comfort
Only God can afford.
Pray often with her,
Together, open His Word.

Do you see the pain
In your sisters' eyes?
Stop for a second.
Empathize.

Never grow weary,
Keep shining your light.
Serve others with love-
And not just because it's what's
right.

Share a smile.
Send a card.
Place a call,
It's not too hard.

God established your works,
He formed your heart.
He built you for this-
He knows your part.





















Don't stop there-
There's more to do.
Your sister is burdened;
She has need of you.

Just beware the danger,
Where Satan lurks.
Don't conflate what's impor-
tant:
People are the work.

Be a safe haven;
A shelter of peace,
Become a place
Where troubles can cease.

BIBLE CANDY HEARTS

♥ Match the conversation hearts to the Bible verse! ♥

				A. Genesis 29:13
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	B. Psalms 126:2
				C. Leviticus 20:26
5. _____	6. _____	7. _____	8. _____	D. Psalms 136:1-26
				E. Proverbs 3:5
9. _____	10. _____	11. _____	12. _____	F. Matthew 6:25-34
				G. Romans 12:21
13. _____	14. _____	15. _____	16. _____	H. Philippians 4:7
				I. John 15:16
17. _____	18. _____	19. _____	20. _____	J. Romans 13:8
				K. Matthew 19:6
				L. 1 John 4:16
				M. Isaiah 26:4
				N. Psalm 119:103
				O. John 10:27-30
				P. Jeremiah 33:3
				Q. John 15:9
				R. Philippians 2:15
				S. 1 John 1:9
				T. Matthew 5:37



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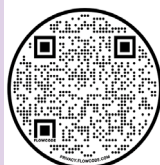
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in Him should not perish, but
have everlasting life."**

John 3:16



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.