

# Purchased by the Blood of Christ

~ Ron Thomas ~

Each New Testament church is a congregation of people purchased by the blood of the Lamb. This is important to remember. There are no members of the church of our Lord who are not saved. All saved are in the church. Who puts people into the church? Only the Lord Jesus (2 Timothy 2:19). Congregations of the Lord's church are not associated with man-made institutions; as a matter of fact, they cannot be. Fellowship exists only in the Lord Jesus and if one is not a Christian, there is no fellowship between that individual and one outside of Christ. The Lord's church has as its leader the Lord Jesus. He has designated that His church will be shepherded by elders (bishops, pastors, presbyters), served by deacons and priests, the individual Christians (Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 2:9). The role of the preacher (often times called, minister) is a very important role, but he too is under the leadership of the elders. If we refuse the leadership of the elders, we will answer God for our refusal. If the elders are qualified men (according to the Holy Spirit) it will be a bad day for those who do so on Judgment Day! It is an important matter; brethren, let us consider this seriously.



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

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the beginning" (Isaiah 46:10), a God who has said that "better is the end of a thing than the beginning" (Ecclesiastes 7:8), gives him strength to know that somehow "God works all things together for good" to "them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

Christians, with that man's faith, are able, not only to thank God for things pleasant, worry-free, but able also to thank him "for all things" (Ephesians 5:20), though some are worrisome and not understandable.

Only a mature Christian has "no anxiety," no worry, "about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving," he lets his "requests be known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding," guards his heart and mind "in Christ Jesus," as he always rejoices "in the Lord. Again I [Paul] will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Only a mature Christian can say, "In any and all circumstances I have learned [time is required, maybe years] the secret of being well-fed and going hungry, both to abound, and to be needy. I have strength for every situation through the One who gave me power" (Philippians 4:12-13).

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
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## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
David Williams  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Robert McAnally  
(863) 682-3600

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## MISSION FIELDS

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

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

[sfacc.net](http://sfacc.net)

## The Book of Life

*Jay Lockhart*

There is no question about it! God has a book which is a register of his people and is called the Book of Life. Moses was aware of God's book as evidenced by the fact that he asked to have his name blotted out of the book for the sake of rebellious Israel (Exodus 32:32). It is interesting that God replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot him out of my book" (verse 33). David spoke of those who troubled him when he prayed, "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous" (Psalm 69:28). This indicates that David knew of God's record of the righteous.

Paul said that his Christian coworkers had their names in the Book of Life (Philippians 4:3). Jesus told his disciples to rejoice because their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). Jesus said to the church at Sardis that he who overcame evil would not have his name blotted out of the Book of Life (Revelation 3:5). In Revelation 13:8 we learn that those who followed evil did not have their names written in the Book of Life. At the judgment the Book of Scripture will be opened to judge men and another book which is the book of Life (Revelation 20:12). Those whose names are not in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). In Revelation 21:27 we learn that those who enter heaven will be those whose names are in the Book of Life. Those who add to or take away from the words of the book of Revelation will have his part taken from the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19). Finally, the names of those who are members of the church have their names written in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).

What do we learn from these Scriptures? We learn that God has a book called the Book of Life which lists the names of his people. God's people in the New Testament are disciples, saints, members of the church. One may have his name blotted out of God's Book by living an unfaithful life. If one's name is not in this Book he will be lost. It is essential that you become a disciple of the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), that you seek to live in harmony with the Lord's will (Revelation 3:5), that you are baptized into the Lord's body, the church (I Corinthians 12:13). Then, with the full assurance of faith, You can "rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

# WORRY, WORRY, WORRY

*Hugo McCord*

## **I. Jesus' Worry**

Worry is “a troubled state of mind” (Webster). During his earthly life, Jesus, knowing that the cross was ahead, was “troubled” (tarasso, John 12:27). He told his apostles that he would be “ridiculed, violently abused, and spit upon,” beaten “with a whip” and killed (Luke 18:32-33).

Vividly he announced, “I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it was already kindled! I have an immersion to undergo, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!” (Luke 12:49-50). “Now my life is troubled! What shall I say?” (John 12:27).

If he had been self-centered, he would have prayed, “Father, save me from this hour” (John 12:27). But being unselfish and dedicated, he said, “I came to this hour for this reason” (John 12:27). The reason was that he had left the “glory” (John 17:5) and riches of heaven (2 Corinthians 8:9) to go to the earth “to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) by pouring out his blood in a cruel death (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 5:7). Unveeringly, he stayed with his commitment.

But he was worried, enduring a severely “troubled state of mind,” about midnight, in the garden of Gethsemane before his death the next day. He told Peter, James and John that he was “deeply grieved, even to death” (Mark 14:34). Then, all alone, he “fell on his face,” praying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup [of death] pass away. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39). Though the night was “cold” (John 18:18), Jesus’ fervent praying, “with strong crying and tears” (Hebrews 5:7), caused him to sweat “like clots of blood falling to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

But when he could not change the Father’s plan, Jesus’ worry ceased, and he was ready to endure “the cross,” disregarding “the shame” (Hebrews 12:2). His worry was replaced with “the joy set before him” (Hebrews 12:2) of his resurrection and of his going back to heaven to sit “at the right side of the throne of God” (Acts 2:24, 30-31; Hebrews 12:2).

## **II. Christians' Worries**

New Christians do not know how to handle trials that cause them to worry. They “need someone to teach” them “the first principles of the oracles of God,” for they “need milk, not solid food” (Hebrews 5:12).

At first they do not “consider it all joy when” they “fall into various trials,” not knowing that the trying of their “faith produces patience” that will make them “complete and entire, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4). However, “for a little while now, if need be,” new Christians are “troubled by various trials” (1 Peter 1:6). As they spiritually “grow to adulthood” (Hebrews 6:1), they see beyond worries a “rejoicing” in a “living hope” for “an imperishable and unstained inheritance, reserved in heaven for” them (1 Peter 1:3-6).

As Christians grow, having “tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:2), they know that the “Lord” is always “near” (Philippians 4:5), never sleeping (Psalm 121:4). They begin to realize the astounding fact that their God “can do infinitely more than we ask or imagine, according to the power which works in” them (Ephesians 3:20).

A young Christian father with two children, on burying his beloved wife, told me on the way to the cemetery that “some things we are not supposed to understand.” But his faith in a God who knows “the end from

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# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jacquelin Dopwell is in LRMC. Sam Bold- ing is at Oakbridge rm.117. Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Kim Sheffield (niece of Frank & Ginny Hamby) will have pancreatic surgery this week at LRMC. Earl Anderson, Don Moore, Karen Swiney, Nina Hart, Annie Beth Coone

**Shut In Members:** Newman Kirkland, Artis Bassett.

**Others:** Colleen Deal, Christina Feussner, Graham Mc- Donald, Harold Hooks, Annette Samson, Kathy Peel & Danny Edmonds *Please pray for all of the sick.*

## Upcoming Events

**Mar. 2nd - Ladies Brunch at Haines City** at 9:00 am.

**Mar. 9th** - From 8:00 am - 11:00 am. Our youth & families are invited to join in the "Great American Clean-up". Please meet at Highland City Elementary School. The youth can count these service hours towards the Good Samaritan category in Lads to Leaders.

**Mar. 10th** - Lads to Leaders will meet at 3:00 pm.

**Mar. 16th** - Semi-Annual Picnic/Sing at Mary Holland Park.

## Visitors

Fran Hinson, Annabelle Phillips, Smitty Smith.

## Wedding Shower

There will be a wedding shower for Marissa Paulin & Josh Estridge this Sunday after the evening worship service. All are invited. Please bring finger foods & drinks. Marissa & Josh are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond. If you would like to donate to a money tree, please see Kathy Sweeney or Tonya Anderson.

## Congratulations

To Newman Kirkland who celebrated his 93rd birthday Sunday. He is at Oakbridge HCC, in room 128.

## Sympathy

To Betty Thornhill, (niece), & Kathy Sweeney, (great niece) of Bud Coker, who passed away February 22nd. A Memorial service was held on Tuesday, February 26th at Parkview Baptist Church.

## Hither, Thither and Yon

Dave Williams is out of the country working, He also plans to visit his brother while there. He plans to be home March 6th. Sharon Egolf is out of town this week..Please keep them both in your prayers.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### March

Jimmy Sweeney..... **Table** ..... David Anderson  
Robert Cooper ..... **Assist**..... Paul Romine

### Sunday, March 3, 2013

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... Jimmy Sweeney

10:00 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeremy Padilla  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Greeters** ..... Robert & June Cooper  
**Att. Cards**..... Antonio Martin & Quadarius Askew  
**Open & Close Building**..... Fred Strickland

### Wed. March 6, 2013

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeremy Padilla  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kyle Bingle

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

### Sunday, March 10, 2013

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Phil Fife  
**Greeters** ..... Bruce & Dolores Longfellow  
**Att. Cards**..... Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building**..... Fred Strickland

### Wed. March 13, 2013

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

**Feb. 03**..... \$4,371.43  
**Feb. 10**..... \$4,179.26  
**Feb. 17**..... \$4,088.05  
**Feb. 24**..... \$3,489.88  
**2013 Contribution Average** ..... \$4,013.69  
**2013 Weekly Budget** ..... \$4,255.13