



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 13 March 26, 2024

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

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.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

THE CERTAINTY OF IMMORTALITY

Brian R. Kenyon

As a general rule, most people want to live forever in a state of bliss. Of course, what that “bliss” is mostly perceived to entail depends on people’s imaginations (cf. John 5:39). Cryogenics is the study of production and effects at very low temperatures. In 1967, James Bedford was the first human to be cryogenically frozen (information adapted from Dowd, www.sfgate.com). Bedford was born in 1893 in Massachusetts and almost died of diphtheria at the age of four. He was a well-educated and adventurous man. He became Interested in cryogenics when diagnosed with cancer in his 70s. Doctors had seven minutes from the moment Bedford died for the first phase. He was put on artificial respiration to keep oxygen flowing to his brain. Dimethyl sulfoxide was pumped into his veins to replace his blood and protect his organs from freezing. He was placed on ice in a metal, tube-shaped capsule, frozen with liquid nitrogen, and transported to the cryogenics facility. For 57 years, his frozen body has been in a metal tube, awaiting his “second coming.” In order for this to work, cryogenics will need to “repair the damage done by freezing, cure whatever ailment originally killed the subject, and reverse the aging process so that the subject has a young, healthy body to enjoy in their second go-round” (Golembiewski, “Will Cryonically Frozen Bodies Ever Be Brought Back to Life?” [April 2021] www.discovermagazine.com). Of course, “cryonic preservation and reanimation is ‘100 percent not possible today’” (Golembiewski), but the hope is for future technological advancements (cf. heart technology). “The aim of cryonics is to keep bodies in a stable, preserved state until the necessary medical technology arrives” (Golembiewski).

This seems like a lot of trouble to go through in the dead-end-hope of seeking immortality on human terms. Truth clearly states “the body without the spirit is dead” (James 2:26). There is no bringing back a body whose spirit/soul has departed, except through God in the resurrection at the end of time. There are three truths involving Jesus that guarantee every human’s immortality!

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Paul wrote in God-breathed Scripture that “Jesus Christ ... was ... declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:1-4). “Declared” is from a word (*horizo*, ὁρίζω) that means bounded, marked out, designated (the English word “horizon” derives from this word). Thus, Jesus was marked out, or designated, to be God’s Son by His resurrection from the dead. Syntactically, “with power” could go with “declared” (i.e., powerfully declared) or, more likely, with “Son of God” (i.e., declared to be the powerful Son of God). Before Jesus’ resurrection, He was associated with weakness. Paul wrote about “our Lord Jesus Christ, that ... for

your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9). Again, the apostle declared, “He was crucified in weakness” (2 Cor. 13:4). However, after Jesus’ resurrection, He has “all authority” (Matt. 28:18 cf. Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 12:2). The empty tomb unequivocally proves Jesus as the Son of God! His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of all the dead at the end of time (1 Cor. 15:1-57). Our immortality is certain because Jesus was designated to be the “Son of God with power” by the resurrection!

JESUS ALWAYS SPOKE TRUTH

In Jesus’ first century setting, the term “Son of God” was a declaration that Jesus was of the same nature as God. The Jews wanted to kill Him “because He ... also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God” (John 5:18). As they stood before Pilate, the chief priests and officers wanted Jesus crucified because “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God” (John 19:6-7). For any other person in the first century Jewish culture of Jesus, claiming to be “the Son of God” would be blaspheme, but Jesus proved it was true as applied to Him, throughout His earthly ministry (cf. John 3:1-2; Acts 2:22; 10:38), and in the end with His resurrection (Acts 13:30-39; Rom. 1:4). Since Jesus is God (John 1:1-3), and since God cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2), Jesus always spoke truth (cf. John 1:17; 14:6), including two important truths He taught concerning immortality.

First, only Jesus has authority over Hades, the place of departed human spirits (cf. Luke 16:19-31). While the apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos “for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 1:9), Jesus identified Himself, “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore ... And I have the keys of Hades and of Death” (Rev. 1:18). Keys are symbolic for authority in the sense that the person who has the key to a door has authority over who can enter (cf. Matt. 16:19). The human spirit that separates from the body at death is held by God in the Hadean realm to await the Judgment (James 2:26 cf. Eccl. 12:7; Rev. 20:11-15). Deity is the only One who can reunite human spirits with their bodies to bring them out of the Hadean realm! Second, Jesus said He would rise from the dead. Early in His ministry, Jesus declared, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,” then John added, “But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them” (John 2:19-22). Midway through His ministry, Jesus “began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected ... and be killed, and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). At the empty tomb, after announcing, “He is not here, but is risen!,” the angels stated, “Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again’” (Luke 24:6-7 cf. Luke 24:25-27). It should not have been such a surprise to the apostles that Jesus rose again, showing He had authority over the Hadean realm! Because Jesus predicted and fulfilled His own prophecy of His resurrection, our immortality is guaranteed!

JESUS WILL RAISE THE DEAD

Because Jesus is God, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and because He rose from the dead by the power of the Father (Rom. 6:4), the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11), and Himself, the Son (John 10:18), what He says through the New Testament about our resurrection is certain! First, while Jesus walked this earth, He was the resurrection personified. Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” (John 11:24-25). He proved this by raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44). Second, Jesus has been given authority to raise the dead, “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also” (John 5:25-27). When the precise moment comes, according to God’s timing, “all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29). Third, only “those who are Christ’s at His coming” will be raised to be with the Lord forever (1 Cor. 15:23, 51-57).

CONCLUSION

Efforts at immortality like the one mentioned above by Bedford are absolutely futile! Humans are designed for immortality, but not in our present bodies, no matter the medical advances (Hebrews 9:27). We must not focus on the “outward man” for immortality but on the “inward man” (2 Corinthians 4:16 cf. Colossians 3:9-11), and use our bodies as “instruments of righteousness” (Romans 6:12-13).

PRAYER LIST

Current: Stacey Paulin had surgery on March 20 and is now home!, **Fran Gabaldon** had an appointment at Moffit on March 26. **Jeff Bingle** had a PET scan last week, will be having more tests in the near future. **Bea Pratt** and **Wadi Khoury** are home with COVID. **Patty Van Allen** is not feeling well. **Audrey Rebekah** a friend of the Tydings is having eye surgery on Wed.

Continual: **Debbie Bush** (struggles); **Bill & Carlene Long** (health & strength); **Ron Ford** (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, Helen Perrin, Joyce Burbage, bettye bolding**

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



Everyone seemed to enjoy the egg-hunt that was hosted by the Sheumaker's last Sunday afternoon! Thank you to Becky for her creativity and her willingness to host this event each year!



Brother Clark has been preaching for the Bethel church of Christ in Athens, Alabama since 1984. He has received his formal education from Freed-Hardeman (AA, 1977; BA, 1979) and Southern Christian (known now as Amridge) University (MA, 1981). Along with being a preacher, he is also the Director and an instructor of the Alabama School of Bible Emphasis. In addition to his local preaching work, he has been overseas mission campaign and writes for several brotherhood publications, He and his wife, Pamela, have three children and seven grandchildren.

THE EAGLE LAKE CHURCH OF CHRIST

INVITES YOU TO OUR
GOSPEL MEETING

WITH **JIMMY CLARK**

APRIL 21st TILL THE 24th OF 2024

THEME: Strengthening the inner man.

9:30 AM- BIBLE STUDY- Strength from the word.

10:30 AM- MORNING WORSHIP- Reason to sing.

12:00 NOON- FELLOWSHIP MEAL, (visitors welcome).

1:30 PM- EVENING WORSHIP- Measuring Strength.

7:00 PM MONDAY NIGHT- Joy of the Lord is Your Strength.

7:00 PM TUESDAY NIGHT- Strength through weakness.

7:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT- Strengthen the brethren.

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 or set up a time and day that works best for your family.

Scheduled to Serve in March

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
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Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Rick Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Andre Medley
Closing Prayer	Camron Bailey

Sunday, March 31, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Brian Kenyon
"Having Loosed the Pains of Death" (Acts 2:24)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Landan & Peyton Willcut
This Little Light & Embarrassed or Embolden	

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Rogers
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Terrance Dindy
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Estridge
Lord's Table (both)	Steve Tydings
Closing Prayer	Wadi Khoury
Open/Close Building	Bobby Sheumaker
Attendance Cards	n/a
Sound Booth (both)	Brian Williams

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Nona/Janis
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Terrance Dindy
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Kyle Faneuf
Devotional / Invitation	Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer	Joseph Faulk

How We Are Giving

March 10	\$7,520.00
March 17	\$6,368.00
March 24	\$4,882.00
Contribution Average	\$6,994.64
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!

Women of the Word

Ingrid Stewart

Our Eternal Home

How beautiful heaven must be
 Where all God's children we will see
 A beautiful place of mansions fair and skies ever bright
 A land where there is no darkness, only eternal light
 Fair haven of rest for the weary
 No longer will we be sad and teary
 Won't it be wonderful there
 Free from life's burdens, heartaches and fears
 In the sweet by and by
 What a happy reunion in that home in the sky
 Joyously singing and forever free
 How beautiful heaven must be

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

2 Corinthians 5:1

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.



Recipes

Ladies Day



Saturday, April 6, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

RECIPE FOR PEACE

SPEAKERS:

"Stock Your Spiritual Pantry"
"Putting It All Together"

Stephanie Kenyon
Unita Orr

Registration: 9:30 A.M.
Continental Breakfast

Program Begins: 10:30 A.M.
Lunch Provided: 12:00 NOON

KISSIMMEE CHURCH OF CHRIST
921 WEST VINE STREET
KISSIMMEE, FL 34741

R.S.V.P - no later than March. 25th

Please contact Karen Kirkendall at 407-973-4058
or email at karenkirkendall@aol.com
with names of attendees so name tags
can be made ahead of time.

The Ladies Of Eagle Lake Church Of Christ

Invite You To Our 2024 Ladies Day With

Sister Pamela Clark

"Living In The World, But Not Like The World"

Romans 12: 1-2



Saturday April 20th, 2024; 8:30 Till 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Please R.S.V.P. By: March 30th, 2024

Gail Jackson: 903-243-1445

Lorraine Hubbard: 863-514-3379

We Look Forward To Seeing You There!!!

If you would like to go to the Ladies Day events but need a ride please contact the office and we will try to accomodate you!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com
Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

" Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works and
glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16



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