

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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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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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

The Memorial Feast

Paul Clements

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper during the last Passover supper, which He ate with His disciples, He set in place one avenue of Christian worship (Matthew 26:29). Christians proclaim the Lord's death in this memorial feast (1 Corinthians 11:26). We do this on the first day of the week because it is authorized by approved example (Acts 20:7).

The divinely appointed elements of the Lord's Supper are unleavened bread, representative of the body of Christ, and the fruit of the vine, symbolizing the blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We partake of these emblems in remembrance of Christ's death.

When Paul wrote the church of God at Corinth, he found it necessary to correct some abuses they were making of the Lord's Supper. He had praised them for their loyalty (1 Corinthians 11:2), but because of the shameful condition that existed in the Lord's Day worship, he could not praise them for that (1 Corinthians 11:20-22). Whatever the cause, it appears they were turning the Lord's Supper into a common meal. In addition, there were divisions within the congregation, and they were not respecting each other as brethren. This unbrotherly attitude may be where the problems all started.

Incidentally, this passage does not condemn the eating of food in a church building. If this was wrong, the church of the first century would not have been able to worship in their homes where the families ate their food. Paul didn't condemn the Corinthians for eating in the place of assembly, but for their unchristian conduct in eating and drinking to excess, and in ignoring other brethren in the process. When Paul said, "it is not possible to eat the Lord's Supper" (11:20), he didn't mean they couldn't go through the form of eating the Supper. He meant they could not do it in an acceptable manner.

Paul set forth the divine origin and purpose of the Lord's Supper with the intent evidently to condemn the misconduct of the brethren in Corinth, and to encourage them to get right with God. If Christians today come to worship with the wrong attitude toward any item of worship or toward any brother, they are not in a position to be pleasing to the Lord whom they claim to serve (cf Matthew 5:23ff). Some have misunderstood the phrase, "an unworthy manner" (1 Corinthians 11:27). This is not talking about an unworthy person. We should never fail to partake of the Lord's Supper because we think we are unworthy. If we had to wait until we were worthy, we could never partake! In order to make sure we partake in a worthy manner, a man must "prove himself" (1 Corinthians 11:28). We must test our attitude toward the Lord and our brethren. Christians must come to the Supper with a spirit of humility and reverence as well as observe it in the proper way. The Lord's Supper is certainly an important part of Christian worship.

Have You Run Out of Magnet?

T. Pierce Brown

I was talking with a woman about her relationship with her husband, and she informed me that he had run out of magnet. I almost laughed, but did not, as I realized that she meant that he had lost his power of attraction. In the 72 years I have lived, I never recall hearing that expression before, although I wonder why, for we have heard of persons with magnetism, and we have heard and talked about magnetic personalities. As I meditated on what she told me, I thought of the expression in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself." Like a magnet, He would attract men of all kinds. Doubtless, He was speaking of His being lifted up on the cross, as references in John 3:14 and John 8:28 would indicate. However, that "lifting up" would avail very little if there were not three other kinds of lifting up. He had to be lifted up from the tomb, lifted up to the right hand of God in Heaven, and lifted up by the proclamation of the Gospel and the living of Christlike lives where the life of Christ "may be manifested in our mortal flesh" (2 Corinthians 4:10).

This is the point at which my mind kept returning to the question, "Have you run out of magnet?" Have you lost your drawing power? We never had any drawing power that was worth anything in the first place that did not result from lifting up Christ. When I attend a personal evangelism workshop and find the attendance fewer than 100 when a few years ago it was more than 1000, I cannot but wonder, "Have we run out of magnet?" When I see congregations all around the country that are able to raise money for fellowship halls, gymnasiums or most any other thing that will satisfy the desire of some member for his own welfare or pleasure, and the pressing need for money for getting the Gospel into every home in the world is almost totally disregarded, I cannot but wonder, "Have we run out of magnet?"

Are we drawing people to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world? If not, what is the purpose of our existence and activity? When Christ is lifted up in our lives and people see in us the qualities that drew men to Christ, then we will have the magnetism approved of God. We will not "run out of magnet." What are some of those qualities?

The most basic one is the one Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-21 when He said, "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me." The reason this is the most basic is because that unless we have the kind of unity Christ and the Father had, we can have no other qualities that will make us attractive as we should be.

The most fundamental unity that existed between Christ and the Father was not merely unity of words, unity of works, and unity of purpose, as important as those are. It was a unity of nature. When we are made partakers of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), then we will demonstrate the kind of love Christ demonstrated. That was not merely a feeling of affection for those who pleased Him, but a willingness to sacrifice Himself for the unpleasant and ungodly person.

It will cause us to be consistent in our life and teaching, with both life and teaching being that which is authorized and practiced by Christ. It will cause a consecration and devotion to the task of saving souls and glorifying God that will leave no question concerning what our real priorities are in the minds of those who look carefully at our lives.

When you see and hear the elders, preachers and members of the congregations with which you are associated talk about how they will spend the time and money that God has given them, where do you conclude their priorities are? Is it on providing more things to minister to their own desires and personal interests, or is on winning more souls from eternal destruction? My sad conclusion is that even among the congregations that I have counted as the "soundest" in doctrine, the interest in most cases is primarily in material things. Is there any wonder that we seem to have "run out of magnet" and lost whatever power we may have had to attract persons to Christ?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jim Turner is in the hospital in Brandon with a blood infection. They are doing further testing. Ginny Hamby tests so far have come out great. She has one more on Tuesday. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Patricia Chisholm, Jacquelin Dopwell, JoAnn Hoback, Debbie Horsley, Michelle Paulin and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Joe Shanes, Wayne Hendrix, Bonnie Patterson, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding and Harold Rister.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Ann Howard, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson and Sharon Edler.

Others: Jackie Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Alyssa Buckner and Gerri Howell. Keep all of these in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

August 7th: Fellowship in service immediately following our evening worship service. We are going to be showing slides from the Nicaragua Mission Trip. Please bring Spanish foods to eat in keeping with the theme.

September 10th: Youth Day at the OceanSide Church of Christ in Atlantic Beach, FL. See the slide and/or flyer on the bulletin board for more info.

Thank You's

Dear brothers and sisters, Thank you so much for your calls and cards and especially your prayers. Many voices raised to God get results. I praise him for his goodness and love. It is so good to be here at S.F.A. Please continue to pray for Bill, Nancy and myself.

In Christian love and Jesus name. Carlene Long

I miss and love each and every one of my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you so much for your prayers and assistance during my illnesses. Like Paul the apostle said, I am learning to be content in all things. Hope to be back to worship soon. Love, Sharon Mathis Washington.

Response

We are rejoicing that Melody Baxter was baptized into Christ last Sunday evening. Please let us encourage her and welcome her into our family here at S.F.A. Also Debra Pavlovic Okolichany asked for the prayers of the congregation. Please continue to keep them both in prayer.

Visitors

Will & Autumn Vann, Peter Saunders, Howard & Robin Johnson, Vince & Tiffany Daugherty and Phyllis Avery.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Frank Hamby Table Jimmy Sweeney
Jim Turner Assist Josh Estridge

Sunday, August 7, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer Stacey Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Pratts
Att. Cards Paul & Ian
Closing Prayer Paul Romine
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. August 10, 2016

Song Leader Bill Long
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

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

Sunday, August 14, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer John McShane
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Grimes
Att. Cards Quadarius & Sebastian
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. Aug. 17, 2016

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 10.....	\$4,733.00
July 17.....	\$4,613.26
July 24.....	\$4,606.43
July 31.....	\$5,074.60
Contribution Average.....	\$4,950.84
2016 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,422.60

Living Like No One Else

Financial radio talk show personality, Dave Ramsey, has this saying, in reference to financial freedom: "Live like no one else, so you can live like no one else." By this he means that people can live financially responsible so that enough wealth can be built during their regular working years in order to retire comfortably, not only to live the lifestyle they want but also to give generously of their means. While that is great in the financial world, there are spiritual lessons in that philosophy for eternity. Paul said, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). A Christian must be different from people of the world! Isn't that the point Jesus made when He said, "You are the salt of the earth You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16)? Salt has no power to flavor if it is like the dross around it. Light has no power to guide if it is put under a basket. A city on a hill cannot stand out at night if it is not lit. Christians surely cannot



draw the world to glorify the Father in heaven when they are no different from the world! If we live like God instructs us, we will be different from the world. We must not give in to worldliness. Peter wrote, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:11-12). When we live like no one else here, we will enjoy eternity with God! ❤️ Brian



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

Saturday, August 27



There will be a meeting for parents, mentors, and chaperones (not students) for the 2016-2017 Lads to Leaders year. The "strategy session" meeting will begin with a meal in the fellowship room at 5:00 p.m.



We rejoice that Melody (second from left) was baptized into Christ on July 31, 2016. Welcome to the family of God at South Florida Avenue!



Summer's almost over! Let's Take Advantage of the Vacation Bible Schools in Our Area!

We are planning to attend Orange Street's VBS in Auburndale on Friday, August 5. If you would like to come along, please see Brian. We will leave around 6:15 p.m. and return about 9:30.

August 12-14 Teen Recharge
 at Weeki Wachee Christian Camp
Theme: "I Have the Power!"



Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. (2 Tim. 2:15-16)