

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.....9:30a.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

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WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Jesus and the Passover

Hugo McCord

The Israelites were instructed to kill an unblemished lamb, “a male a year old” (Exodus 12:5) on the 14th day of Abib (April), “at the going down of the sun” (Deuteronomy 16:6), and to put the blood on the two side posts and the headpiece of their doors (Exodus 12:7). The lamb was to be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread (“the bread of affliction”) and “bitter herbs” that night (Deuteronomy 16:3; Exodus 12:8).

The Lord promised that, as he passed through the land to smite the Egyptians “at midnight,” when “I see the blood, I will pass over you,” and not allow “the destroyer” to enter that house (Exodus 12:13, 23, 29). So the Passover Feast was begun, and the Israelites were commanded to “keep this ordinance in its season from year to year” (Exodus 13:10), saying to their children: “It is the sacrifice of Jehovah’s passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses” (Exodus 12:26-27).

This “day” became a “memorial,” a “feast to Jehovah” (Exodus 12:14) “by an unlimited (olam) ordinance” (Exodus 12:14). But “in the fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4), “according to the eternal purpose” (Ephesians 3:11), Jesus appeared as a planned replacement of the Passover lamb, becoming “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Yes, in “the plan of the mystery, hidden for ages in God” (Ephesians 3:9), Jesus became “our Passover Lamb” (1 Corinthians 5:7). As no bones of the Passover lamb were broken (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12), so it was predicted that no bones would be broken in the body of “our Passover Lamb” (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36).

The Israelites, in their annual Passover “memorial,” through 1500 years from the days of Moses, remembered that their ancestors walked “out from the land of Egypt” in “a night to be much observed” (Exodus 12:14, 17, 37, 42). So Christians now honor in a weekly memorial their “Passover Lamb” (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 5:7). This their “Passover Lamb” has requested, “Do this in memory of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25). Thus the Old Testament Passover Feast, by God’s plan, is “fulfilled in the kingdom of God” when Christians in the Lord’s Supper “eat and drink,” said Jesus, “at my table in my kingdom” (Luke 22:16, 30; 1 Corinthians 11:20)

The Bottle in the Smoke

By T. Pierce Brown

There is an interesting expression in Psalm 119:83. It reads in the King James Version, *“For I am become like a bottle in the smoke, yet do I not forget thy statutes.”* Probably most readers of the King James Version would not have the least idea of the meaning of the expression. The American Standard Version helps some, but not much. It says, *“For I am become like a wine-skin in the smoke; Yet do I not forget thy statutes.”*

Even if one realized that some persons hung their wineskins in the chimney, or other places where the warmth of the fire and smoke would surround it, one might have trouble seeing any meaning in David’s words. As in all cases of serious Bible study, one should read the passage in the context. This will not always reveal the exact meaning, but will usually help to shed light on the subject.

He had just asked in verse 82, *“When wilt thou comfort me?”* At the end of verse 83, he says, *“Yet do I not forget thy statutes.”* In verse 84, he mentions *“them that persecute me.”* Without question, the context has to do with persecution, need for comfort and difficulties of various sorts.

Realizing that, we can visualize a wineskin hanging in the smoke of a chimney, growing more wrinkled, blackened and shriveled. This would suggest his feeling of distress, anxiety, grief, misfortune, adversity, sorrow, anguish, discomfort and misery. It is very similar to what he said in Psalm 22:15, *“My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws.”*

It is possible, however, that David meant more than that, for he concludes that verse with, *“Yet do I not forget thy statutes.”* Instead of these difficulties and persecutions becoming stumbling blocks, he makes stepping-stones of them. One can think

and talk as if rose bushes have thorns. He can also think, talk and act as if thorn bushes have roses.

Whenever you feel that you are like a bottle in the smoke, remember James 1:2-4, *“Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations (trials); knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.”* Can anyone doubt that Job was better after his terrible experiences? Yet, *“a bottle in the smoke”* does not begin to describe the difficulties through which he passed. Is there any question that Paul knew it was better for him to have the thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7)? He said in verses 9 and 10, *“Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Wherefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

It is said that they hung the wineskins in the warm smoke of the fire to help mellow the wine and bring it to perfection. Whether David also had that in mind, we do not know. We do know that it is the kind of thing that has happened to God’s children many times. Hebrews 12:6 is still true, *“For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.”* Then in verse 10 he says, *“For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed good to them; but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.”* So, when the bottle gets all smoked and shriveled, remember David said, *“Yet do I not forget His statutes.”* *“Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say, Rejoice”* (Philippians 4:4). To realize the practical value of Romans 8:28 can change your life. *“And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to His purpose.”*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Duane Nelson is home from the hospital and is weak but doing some better. Ginny Hamby started chemotherapy and radiation treatment this week. Ethan Thrower was home sick. Also keep Brenda Mask, Jim Turner, Taleah Anderson, Jacqueline Dopwell, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Duane Nelson.

Others: Chrissi Fuesner, Christopher Edler, Rodney Gasden and family, Rachel Long (granddaughter of Bill & Carlene Long).

Upcoming Events

September 6th: Fellowship In Service will follow the evening services. Please bring finger foods.

September 7th: 22nd Labor Day Lectureship at the Sixth Street Church of Christ starting at 9:00 a.m. The theme is "Be Thou Faithful In All Things." See the flyer on the bulletin board for speakers and more details.

September 11th-13th: Scrap the Weekend at Central Florida Bible Camp. Bring your scrapbooking supplies and enjoy fellowship with fellow enthusiasts. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. on Friday. See more info on the bulletin board.

September 12th: Ladies Brunch at the North Jackson Ave. Church of Christ in Bartow at 9:00 a.m. Flyer is on the bulletin board.

Thank You

To the youth at SFA church, Thank you for the chemo bag for my time at the treatment center. I appreciate each one of you and know that others will be blessed by your gifts and thoughtfulness too!!

In Christian love, Ginny Hamby

Visitors

Tim Gengle, Amanda Patterson, Katrina Greene and Brandi, Ashley, Keith and David, Latisha Brown and Laila.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

John McShane..... **Table** Charles Paulin
Bob Cooper..... **Assist** C.J. Grimes

Sunday, September 6, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....Ken Walker
Prayer.....John McShane

10:30 A.M.

Announcements.....Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....David Anderson
Closing Prayer.....Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer.....Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer.....Kyle Bingle
Greeters.....David & Tonya Anderson
Att. Cards.....Paul & Ian
Open & Close Building.....Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. Sept 9, 2015

Song Leader.....Bill Long
Opening Prayer.....Frank Hamby
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*

Sunday, September 13, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....Frank Hamby
Prayer.....Charles Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements.....Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....David Williams
Closing Prayer.....Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....Paul Romine
Opening Prayer.....Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer.....David Deal
Greeters.....The Fifes
Att. Cards.....Quadarius and Antonio
Open & Close Building.....Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. Sept 16, 2015

Song Leader.....Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer.....Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer.....Kyle Bingle

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 09	\$4,637.10
Aug 16	\$4,723.09
Aug 23	\$4,080.55
Aug 30	\$4,984.70
Contribution Average	\$4,665.10
2015 Weekly Budget	\$4,302.98

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week
"Giving Thanks"



WONN 1230 or WLKF 1430 or on web page
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

We Never Know Whose Life We May Brighten

In the Book of Acts, Luke introduces us to “a certain disciple named Tabitha” (also called Dorcas) from Joppa. She was “full of good works and charitable deeds” (Acts 9:36). She became very ill and died. Two men were sent to ask Peter to come. When he arrived, they took him to an upper room, and then “all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them” (Acts 9:39). How much these people expressed their appreciation for Tabitha while she lived, the Bible does not say, but clearly, Tabitha brightened their lives by the good deeds she constantly did! The “thank you” to the left (as well as the one on the page 2 announcements) was sent to the church in response to the good work initiated by Heidi, and participated in by others of this congregation (young and not so young). “Chemo bags” are relatively small outward things, but the loving thoughtfulness behind them is a huge, inward, life-brightening power! Let us follow the example of Jesus who always “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). May we never “grow weary while doing good” (Gal. 6:9). We never know whose life we may touch, not just for a brighter life here, but, more importantly, for eternal life to come! ❤️ *Brian*

Thank You

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for the “goodie” bags you brought for our patients. Everyone loves a gift! Our patients will thoroughly enjoy!

Thanks again,

[name withheld], RN

Chemotherapy Team Leader



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1807 South Florida Avenue
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

What's Happening

Monday, Sept. 7 The Sixth Street Labor Day Lectureship is not just for adults! A great program is slated, and it is a great time for Christian fellowship!

Saturday, Sept. 12 The youth devo and activity will be an “abbreviated version” bonfire at the Kenyons from 6:30-9:30. There is a sign-up sheet on bulletin board.

Sunday, Sept. 13 There will be a L2L meeting in the fellowship room at 4:00 p.m. Pray for our young people and their mentors as we enter full-swing into L2L “season.” We have a great group of young people who are planning on doing great things for God. Let us encourage them every way possible!



Join Us In Memory Verses

One of the areas we have challenged our youth is to memorize 100 Bible verses (“Centurion of Scripture” in L2L terms) by the end of February. We would love for the whole church to join us, no matter the age!

➔ **Matthew 5:1-10** *The Beatitudes*

Welcome Hiram Kemp, our intern while he finishes his second year at FSOP. He will help Bob, Brian, and Jason by preaching two Sundays per month



(both worship services), teaching the Wednesday night teenage class, and filling-in other areas whenever available.