

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 69 No.2 01-12-16

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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.

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WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Appearance or Adherence?

Brian R. Kenyon

Some people seem to think outward appearance makes them right with God (Mt. 23:27-28). "Circumcision" in the first century became one such outward sign that people thought made them right with God. Circumcision was once a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham (Gen. 17:9-14), and then later between God and the children of Israel (Lev. 12:1-5). However, Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Law and, thus, rendered circumcision irrelevant (Mt. 5:17 cf. Rom. 8:3; 10:3; Col. 2:14). In Paul's day, some still tried to bind it. Paul gave three important ways of adherence that are far more important than mere outward appearance of belonging to God.

First, keeping God's word is more important than religious appearance. Paul wrote, "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God" (1 Cor. 7:19). It does not matter whether one was circumcised or uncircumcised when called by God, he can still glorify God (1 Cor. 7:18-19). The important thing is "keeping the commandments of God." Submitting to God is more important than ritual observance (Mt. 7:21-23).

Second, faith working in love is more important than religious appearance. Paul wrote, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). Binding circumcision as a requirement of salvation obligates one to keep the whole Law (Gal. 5:2-3 cf. Gal. 3:10-12; Jas. 2:10), and it causes one to fall from God's grace (Gal. 5:4). The goal of the Gospel is to share in the righteousness of God eternally. This goal is made possible through the Holy Spirit by our faith (Gal. 5:5 cf. Gal. 3:14; 4:6; 5:16, 18, 25; 6:8). Those whose faith is working by love are heirs of God (1 Thes. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:21-22).

Third, walking by faith is more important than religious appearance. Paul wrote, "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:15-16). Rather than glorying in outward appearance, God's people must walk by faith! A "new creature" is only possible by being "in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17), which implies being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). Faithful Christians are "the Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16 cf. Rom. 9:6-8; Phil. 3:3).

Sometimes members of the church can deceive themselves into thinking that just because they attend church services or teach Bible class or lead in worship assemblies that they must be right with God. However, constant examination of self is needed to make sure we are actually adhering to God's will by keeping His word, working our faith in love, and walking by faith instead of merely appearing to!



F. Antemesaris



Stephen Atnip



Bob Bauer



J. Brooks Boyd



Rico Brown



Doug Burleson



Jimmy Clark



Russ Crosswhite



Thomas Wise



Will Vann



Jackie Stearsman



David Stearsman



Paul Sain



U. Richardson



Ben Radford



Jeremy Padilla



Melvin Otey



Rick Kenyon



Brian Kenyon



Hiram Kemp



Tim Hayes

Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 ♦ (800) 320-9780

“Do You Understand Sin?”

41st Annual Lectureship **Jan. 18-21, 2016** Brian R. Kenyon, Director



Bill Davis



David Dixon



Earl D. Edwards



Mike Elledge



Cameron Freeman

MONDAY

9:00 Before Sin Entered the World
9:40 The Devil and His Work
10:20 BREAK
10:50 The Effects of the First Sin
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Young People and Overcoming Sin

1:30 Peer Influence
2:00 Wisdom on WiFi
2:30 Defeating Worldliness
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 The Anatomy of Sin
7:45 The Promised Savior

Doug Burleson
Jackie M. Stearsman
Russ Crosswhite
Thomas Wise
Forest Antemesaris
Hiram Kemp

WEDNESDAY

9:00 Calvinism's Influential View of Sin
9:40 Jeroboam's Sinful System of Worship
10:20 BREAK
10:50 The Apostasy of Israel
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Worship and Overcoming Sin

1:30 Nadab and Abihu
2:00 When Gender Roles Go Too Far
2:30 Evaluating Current Trends in Worship
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 "Repent and Be Baptized"
7:45 Jesus' Life and Its Effect on Sin

Rick Kenyon
David Dixon
Jimmy Clark

TUESDAY

9:00 The Old Testament Sacrificial System
9:40 The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Sin and the Antediluvian World
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Families and Overcoming Sin

1:30 Eli: Failures in Parenting Lead to Sin
2:00 Sin in David's Family
2:30 Breaking Sin's Cycle in the Family
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Sins of God's People: Then and Now
7:45 Jesus' Birth and Its Effect on Sin

David Stearsman
Stephen Atnip
Rick Kenyon
Jon Podein
Mike Elledge
J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.
Ben Radford
Jimmy Clark

THURSDAY

9:00 Korah and His Cohorts
9:40 Dealing with Divisive Brethren
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Gentiles Condemned
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Dealing with Sin

1:30 Between Individuals
2:00 What About "Congregational Sin"?
2:30 Withdrawing Fellowship
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 The Christian's Relationship to Sin
7:45 Jesus' Death: Reconciliation and Justification

Cameron C. Freeman
Bob Bauer
Melvin Otey
Ulysses Richardson
Jackie M. Stearsman
Tim Hayes
Brian R. Kenyon
M. Otey

Broadcast Live at www.fsop.net

**Make Plans Now to Attend! Take Advantage of the MLK, Jr. Day holiday!
Special Youth Oriented Forum on Monday!**

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Keep Claud Romine, Jim Turner, Jacqueline Dopwell, Ginny Hamby and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Billy Moore, Barry Richardson, Wayne Hendrix. Sam Cooper Bolding, bettye bolding's infant great grandson has been released from the hospital and is doing much better.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Claud Romine, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Betty Thornhill and Sharon Edler.

Others: Chrissi Fuesner, Ann Wood, Kathy Biting-Peel. Please pray for all of these.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10th: Lads to Leaders will meet. The time for Orlando is drawing near. Lets encourage our youth to study.

Jan. 15th-18th: Winter Camp at the Central Florida Bible Camp. The theme is Soul Wars. See Bulletin Board.

Jan. 16th: Men's Breakfast at Central Church of Christ in Haines City at 8:00 a.m.

Jan. 16th: Ladies Day at the Orange Street Church of Christ. Registration starts at 8:30. Program and lunch will follow. The speaker is Joie Schauer. The theme is "Let me be a mirror...Reflecting God's Love!" R.S.V.P. by 1/8/16.

Jan. 18th-21st: Florida School of Preaching Lectureship on the theme: "Do You Understand Sin?" Make plans now to attend, learn more of God's word, and enjoy fellowship.

Jan. 30th: Ladies Day at the Venice Church of Christ. Registration and breakfast at 9:00 a.m. See the flyer on the bulletin board for speakers and theme.

Placed Membership

We are very happy that Don & Debbie Horsley placed membership with our congregation last Sunday. Their address is: 95 Eight Iron Circle, Mulberry, FL 33860. Please get to know this fine couple and welcome them into our church family.

Visitors

Rebecca Hill, Brenda Keihn, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Scarbrough.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

January

Kenny French **Table** Fred Strickland
Fred Rapley **Assist** Josh Estridge

Sunday, January 10, 2016
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Fred Strickland

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Sermon Bob McAnally
Closing Prayer Fred Rapley

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Greeters The Stricklands
Att. Cards Sebastian & Ian
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wed. January 13, 2016

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

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

Sunday, January 17, 2016
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer Kyle Bingle

10:30 A.M.

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

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Estridge's
Att. Cards Quadarius & Paul
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wed. January 20, 2016

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Kyle Williams
Closing Prayer David Williams

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec. 13.....	\$4,675.00
Dec. 20.....	\$4,241.50
Dec. 27.....	\$5,306.25
Jan. 01.....	\$4,605.00
Contribution Average.....	\$4,650.71
2015 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,302.98



HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

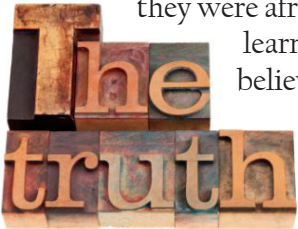
This Week

"Faith and Works"

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

Don't Be Afraid of Truth, But Conform to It

One one occasion, Jesus was asked by those who opposed Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" (Matt. 21:23). Jesus responded, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" (Matt. 21:25). This counter question was the perfect response. Jesus knew the same authority that authorized His actions was the same authority behind the ministry of John the Baptist. That authority was the only true and living God (John 1:6; 5:23)! The opponents of Jesus then "reasoned among themselves, saying, 'If we say, From heaven, He will say to us, Why then did you not believe him? But if we say, From men, we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus and said, 'We do not know.'" And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things" (Matt. 21:25-27). Their answer shows



they were afraid to admit the truth. This fear to acknowledge truth led them to the lie, "We do not know." When we learn something that truly comes from God, we must accept it, even if it conflicts with what we previously believed or practiced. Jesus' opponents refused to admit the truth because they knew they were not living it (and did not want to live it). Furthermore, we must not allow our handling of the truth to be based on how we think others might react. Jesus' opponents were afraid to openly deny the truth because the crowd would react negatively. Let us just accept the truth because it is the truth! ❤️ Brian



South Florida Avenue
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, JAN. 10 will be our next Lads to Leaders day. The time for the Orlando meeting is drawing near. Let us encourage our youth who are participating!

Saturday, JAN. 16 the youth group (and anyone who wants to help) will have a "clean-up the church building" day. Please meet in the fellowship room at 2:00 p.m.

Monday, JAN. 18 Special Monday session of the FSOP lectureship focusing on issues facing young people. The topics are Peer Influence, WiFi Wisdom, and Defeating Worldliness. There will be a question and answer period to follow. That Monday is a day off from school. Why not use it for a fellowship filled time in pursuing spiritual things?

ANYTIME we meet for Bible study or worship, Steve will be here about 30 minutes early and stay a little late for any of our boys who would like help on their song leading.



If you plan on going to the L2L event in Orlando and you have not turned in your registration form, see Brian as soon as possible!



The Forrest Park church of Christ in Valdosta will host YES Weekend on Feb. 26-28, Let's start making plans now to attend this valuable event.

**This Week's
Memory Verses**

Matt. 21:12-13 overturning tables