

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.

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Leading a Lost Soul to Christ

Jack Harriman

When I have opportunity to study with someone who believes the basics but has not understood and obeyed the Gospel, I follow this plan:

First, I establish the fact that we live under the New Testament and not the Old Testament, and the significance of that fact. The Old Testament was a covenant made exclusively between God and the nation of Israel at Mt. Sinai (Deuteronomy 5:1-3; Psalm 147:19-20). The Gentile world was never under this covenant, and the Jewish world, since the death of Jesus, is no longer under it. So, we must get our instruction from the New Testament.

Second, I establish a common sense approach to Bible study. All the facts must be gathered. For example: When they came to arrest Jesus, Mark says that one of those who stood by drew a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Matthew informs us that it was a disciple of Jesus who used the sword. Luke says it was the right ear that was amputated. John identifies the swordsman as Peter and the victim as Malchus. Then the student must reason accurately from all the facts. Any Bible subject must be approached in this way.

Third, I apply all this to the question of how and when one becomes a saved person by studying the Great Commission accounts. Matthew says one is to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (28:19). Mark says that one must believe and be baptized to be saved (16:16). Luke adds the element of repentance and remission of sins (24:46). So, one becomes a saved person when he hears the Gospel and believes it, repents of past sins, and is baptized for the remission of sins.

Fourth, I confirm this conclusion by a brief study of Acts 2. Thousands in the audience there heard the Gospel and believed it (verses 14-37). When they asked what else they should do, they were told to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of their sins (verse 38).

Finally, I emphasize two things about believing, repenting and being baptized. First, this stands together as a unit. Not one of these can be omitted and still result in the remission of sins. Second, there is a logical progression from faith to repentance to baptism to salvation — which progression has been distorted by some of our religious neighbors.

Question: Where are you in your obedience?

What Constitutes Marriage?

Ian McPherson

Marriage was ordained in the Garden of Eden by God (Genesis 2:23-25). It provides man with suitable companionship (Genesis 2:18) and a secure environment for raising children (Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 127:3-5; 128; Malachi 2:14-15). The attack by Satan on the home today is relentless and has caused much confusion. Many do not even know whether or not they are actually married. Let us therefore go back to Bible basics to define what constitutes marriage.

Marriage Is an Institution of God. “Wherefore they are no more twain but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6). No man or government has authority to join people in marriage or grant a divorce without God’s approval.

Marriage Is Regulated by the Law of God. “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:39). “The law” here is God’s law. An example of an unlawful marriage is that of King Herod to Herodias. Even though they were married and divorced according to the law of the land (Mark 6:17), John the Baptist still told Herod that “It is not lawful for thee to have her” (Matthew 14:4). Herod was still accountable to God’s law of marriage. Christians and non-Christians alike, therefore, are accountable to God in their marriage.

Christ stated that fornication is the only ground for divorce and remarriage. “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her who is put away doth commit adultery” (Matthew 19:9). (See also Matthew 5:32, Romans 7:2-3.)

Marriage Is Unfiled and Honourable. “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4). To be valid, marriage must be honourable in all (before both God and man). All societies require some form of legal marriage ceremony that is publicly witnessed and accepted. If a marriage has not complied with the legal requirements of the land, it is not honorable for man. De facto relationships do not constitute marriage.

The motor car is a great blessing to man if driven responsibly. Imagine, however, what carnage would result on our roads if all men were free to drive cars without a license. In the same way, sex, if confined to the marriage bed, is honorable and undefiled, and should be practiced freely and romantically. (See also 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Song of Solomon 4:8-16). Fornication and adultery, however, have devastating fruits; broken homes, parentless children, crushed spirits, suicide, loneliness, disease, and murder are just a few of the consequences.

Marriage Is Formed by Covenant. It is not formed by the first sexual union. “Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant” (Malachi 2:14). (See also Proverbs 2:17-18.) Marriage is actually a three-way covenant. The man, the woman and God must all agree. Also, the couple becomes husband and wife at the ceremony, not in the honeymoon bed. Sex does not form the marriage, but it is a blessing within the marriage.

Marriage Is between Man and Woman. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). Many governments today are actually legalizing homosexual marriages. Same-sex unions are described in the Bible as vile, unnatural and sinful, and therefore, they can never form any part of a valid marriage (Romans 1:26-27).

Let us close with an admonition from the Proverbs to married people. “Let thy foundation be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger”(Proverbs 5:18-20)

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: TaLeah Anderson is in LRMC & was scheduled for surgery on Tuesday. Ann Howard is in LRMC, Rm. E-7007. Amanda Thrower is sick at home. Dick & Joyce Burbage, Faith West, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone, Rosalind Coleman & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Jimmy Puckett, & Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton.

Others: Jeanne Frye, Janie & Sandy Given, Ray Holler, Frances Sheffler, Bill Caroll & Robie DeWitt.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 11th: - Lads to Leaders will meet.

Jan. 17th: - Men's Breakfast at Central in Haines City at 8:00 am.

Jan. 17th: - Ladies Day at Orange St. Church of Christ from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Registration and breakfast at 8:30 am.

Jan. 17th: - Our Youth & Devotional & Activity.

Jan. 19th - 22nd: - Florida School of Preaching 40th annual Lectureship. See bulletin board for more information.

Jan. 30th, 31st & Feb. 1st: There will be a Gospel meeting at the So. Hillsborough Church of Christ in Ruskin. Students from the FSOP will be the speakers. See bulletin board for more information.

Visitors

Mrs. Latisha Brown & Laila, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Estrella.

Congratulations

To Britanni & Hiram Kemp on the birth of their son, Andre. He weighed in at 7lbs & 12 oz. and was 19 inches long. Andre has a big sister whose name is Nadia.

Sympathy

To Ann Wood, a former member at So. Fla. Avenue in the passing of her husband, Frank Wood. We have no information regarding funeral arrangements. Please keep Ann and her family in your prayers.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

January

Sam Crow **Table** Fred Strickland
Tucker Sweeney **Assist** Josh Estridge

January 11, 2015
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Charles Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Fred Rapley

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin
Greeters Fred & Kathy Strickland
Att. Cards Sebastian Rapley & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wed. January 14, 2015

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer David Anderson
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 18, 2015
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Kyle Bingle

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Bob Pratt

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Greeters Josh & Marissa Estridge
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wed. January 21, 2015

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

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec 14	\$3,992.35
Dec 21	\$5,533.67
Dec 28	\$4,359.21
Jan 04	\$4,223.45
Contribution Average	\$4,223.45
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS



This Week's Message
"Wasting Time"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

Are We Dissin' Our Father?

A young man whose wife recently had a baby, making them parents for the first time, told a group of church members that his becoming a dad made him better understand God. The condition of a baby really effects the condition of the parents. When a baby is sick, the parents feel his or her pain. When the baby is healthy and happy, the parents are happy too. However, a little bitty baby doesn't choose to be healthy or sick, happy or sad. As children get older, though, and become more autonomous, what goes on in their life effects their parents even more! When a teenage girl, for example, roles her eyes and sasses back at her dad or a teenage boy insults his mom and walks away, parents, along with some initial anger, are heartbroken inside by the disrespect shown. Most parents do the best they can to lovingly provide for their children. To treat them in those ways just isn't right! Imagine, how God feels when His children treat Him disrespectfully! If anyone deserves respect, it is God! Yet, throughout history



people have disrespected the heavenly Father. People like the tower of Babel builders (Gen. 11:1-9), Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 9-10), and Korah (Num. 16:1-50; 26:9-11) learned the consequences of disrespecting God! However, our motivation should not be the fear of punishment, but the love we have, or should have, for God. It breaks God's heart when we act disrespectfully toward Him (Gen. 6:5-6; Ezk. 16:1-34). The only way to truly respect God is to do His will (Col. 3:17). God has given us His Son. Don't turn your back on Him. Obey the Gospel. Be Faithful. ❤️ *Brian*



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

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, January 11 Lads to Leaders will meet following morning services. We appreciate all the students and mentors who sacrifice their time and offer their talents in spiritually strengthening the SFA congregation!

Saturday, January 17 Our next youth devotional and activity will be hosted by the Bingles. Stay tuned for announcements on time, place, and ways to help and have fun!

Florida School of Preaching
Do You Understand
Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
 January 19-22, 2015



YES Weekend 2015 February 20-22, 2015

The focus this year is centered on the **Emotional SCARS** we carry and how God, through Faith, provides us Hope!

If you would like to attend, see Brian. Let's have a big group go!

"Pew Packers" is meeting every Sunday evening at 5:45 to learn the Bible!

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock" (Luke 6:46-48).