



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 03 January 16, 2024

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

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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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD

Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill Russia
Don Iverson India
Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Brian R. Kenyon

God cares about His people. While Jeremiah was in and around Jerusalem and Daniel was among the courts of Babylon, Ezekiel prophesied to God's people "among the captives by the River Chebar" (Ezk. 1:1; 3:15). Ezekiel was a great example from whom we can learn how to please God. The Lord told him:

As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, "Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD."

³¹So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. ³²Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. (Ezk. 33:30-32)

Let us note three truths from these verses about how much is enough to please to God. First, talking about the preacher and inviting others to hear him is not enough (Ezk. 33:30). Some people are not really interested in the truth, but like new experiences. That was one of the problems with Herod. When he saw Jesus, "he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired ... to see Him ... and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him" (Lk. 23:8). Herod was thrilled to see Jesus but not because of truth! In Athens, Paul preached about the resurrection, and philosophers wanted to hear more, not because they loved truth, but "all the Athenians and the foreigners ... spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). Talking up the preacher and inviting others to hear the Word is good, but it is not enough to be pleasing to the Lord!

Second, hearing and enjoying the preaching is not enough (Ezk. 33:31-32a). These people "hear your words, but they do not do them ... they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain ... they hear your words, but they do not do them!" James wrote, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves," and then explained the ridiculousness of looking into a mirror and walking away from obvious changes that need to be made (Jas. 1:22-24)! We must hear and enjoy the truth, but that is not enough to please God!

Third, living God's word is enough (cf. Ezk. 33:32b). Those to whom Ezekiel prophesied did not do the will of God, but that is what God required! Another prophet, Micah, asked, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic. 6:8). James further wrote, "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (cf. Jas. 1:25). Jesus said it best, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Mt. 7:21).

Change of Venue:

Due to emergency construction being incomplete at South Florida Avenue, the lectureship will be hosted by

Orange Street church of Christ 310 Orange Street, Auburndale, FL 33823



Forest Antemasaris



Lori Antemasaris



Stephen Atnip



Brooks Boyd



Laura Boyd



Rico Brown



Joshua Cantrell



Jimmy Clark



John Allan



Logan Summers



David Stearsman



Daniel Stearsman



Katrina Stearsman



Jason Ridgeway

Florida School of Preaching 49th Annual Lectureship



Brian R. Kenyon, Director

A REASONED HOPE: FIRM UNTO THE END

January 15-18, 2024



Joey Davis



Trevor Dees



James Eaves



Steven Ford



Elvis Galbreath

Monday, January 15

9:00 Biblical Contexts of Hope Logan Summers
9:40 The Certainty of Biblical Hope Steven Ford
10:20 BREAK
10:50 God's Word: Transmission of Hope Trevor Dees
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Hope for the Local Church

1:30 The God of Hope Excels Our Hope ... Peace F. Antemasaris
2:00 Restoring Hope When Suicide Hits A Family Jerry Martin
2:30 Hope Like Never Before: The Future Is Bright Hiram Kemp
3:30 Ladies Class: Sarah's Trust in God Lori Antemasaris
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER - Alumni Reception - Alumni and family please RSVP
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 What God Has Done to Give Hope Trevor Dees
7:45 "We're All in this Together" (Revelation 1) Jeff A. Jenkins

Tuesday, January 16

9:00 The Hope of Israel David Stearsman
9:40 What Everyone Should Know About Grief Jeff A. Jenkins
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Saved by Hope Stephen Atnip
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Contemporary Issues of Hope

1:30 Too Young to Die: Depression and Suicide Daniel Stearsman
2:00 Faith's Role to Treat Hopelessness/Prevent Suicide J.Eaves
2:30 The Church: A Safe Place to Restore Hope ... Life J. Davis
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER - Appreciation Banquet - ALL WELCOME - Please RSVP, \$14 donation for dinner
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Hope and the Resurrection Graham McDonald
7:45 Jeremiah: Hope Through Tears Jimmy Clark

Wednesday, January 17

9:00 The Hope of the Gentiles Robert Lupo
9:40 Wisdom Living Gives Hope Brooks Boyd
10:20 BREAK
10:50 The Relationship Between Faith, Love, and Hope J. Clark
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: False Objects of Hope

1:30 This World (1 Corinthians 15:19) Jason Ridgeway
2:00 Riches (1 Timothy 6:17) Rico Brown
2:30 False Religion (Colossians 2:8, 18, 20-23) Steven Ford
3:30 Ladies Class: Hagar's Trust in God Laura Boyd
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Abraham: Unwavering Hope in God's Plan F. Antemasaris
7:45 Job: Hope in the Midst of Hopelessness Hiram Kemp

Thursday, January 18

9:00 Hope's Role in Spiritual Battle Brian R. Kenyon
9:40 Hope and Confident Preaching Rico Brown
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Hope in the Midst of Persecution Elvis Galbreath
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Hope's Power to Evangelize

1:30 Hope for People Like Saul of Tarsus John Allan
2:00 Working Through Obstacles on Mission Fields G. McDonald
2:30 There Is Only One Hope Joshua Cantrell
3:30 Ladies Class: Rahab's Trust in God Katrina Stearsman
3:30 Questions and Answers on Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Hope as the Soul's Anchor: The Heart ... Hebrews H. Kemp
7:45 Jesus Christ: Our Hope Melvin L. Otey



Melvin Otey



Graham McDonald



Jerry Martin



Robert Lupo



Brian R. Kenyon



Hiram Kemp



Jeff A. Jenkins

PRAYER LIST

Current: Stacey Paulin is in severe pain with Trigeminal Neuralgia. Bobby Simpson is still at the Bartow Hospital. Darlene Thompson was not feeling well on Sunday, Paul Sweeney and Jeff Bingle were also under the weather.

Continual: Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Bobby and Linda Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Ronnie Lynn is recovering from neck surgery. Cheryl Barker will be having surgery on her ankle on Jan. 23.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Daugherty
FAREWELL PARTY
January 20th @ 11:30 AM
please RSVP to the office

WWCC Spring Ladies Retreat
 Feb. 15-17, 2024
 "Spill the Tea"
 Register by February 4, 2024

Please join us for an uplifting weekend in the Word and in fellowship with our Christian sisters!

Men's Breakfast will be January 20th at the Golden Corral in Winter haven. Cost is \$11.99 per person which includes a drink.

YES WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 23-24, 2024
THEME IS BIG DECISIONS
ALL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVITED!
WE ALSO NEED ADULT CHAPERONES.
SEE BRIAN FOR DETAILS



SFA's day to provide lunch has been switched back to it's original day on Wednesday Jan 17th . If you are unable to bring food to Orange St, please bring it here to the building between 9:30 - 10:00 am on Wednesday. There is a sign-up sheet on the table to let us know what to expect food wise. There is also a sign-up sheet for those able to volunteer at the Lectureship.

Scheduled to Serve in January	
Designated Elder	Bobby Sheumaker
Wednesday, January 17, 2024	
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	David Williams
Devotional / Invitation	FSOP Lectureship
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson
Sunday, January 21, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Vince Daugherty
"An Unshakable Kingdom" (Hebrews 12:28)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Jarred Spivey
"The Need for Discernment" (Matthew 7)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Brunson's
Song/Pray before class	Tucker Sweeney
Announcements (both)	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader (both)	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Estridge
Lord's Table (both)	Steve Tydings
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	Peyton/Landon
Sound Booth (both)	Kyle Bingle
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Brenda/Darlene
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Wednesday, January 24, 2024	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	David Williams
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle
How We Are Giving	
December 31	\$7,920.35
January 7	\$6,239.00
January 14	\$9,302.00
Contribution Average	\$7,770.50
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!

Choose you this day.....

Throughout this trial of Sophia’s accident and having to give her back to God, someone will occasionally comment that we are an inspiration, that our continued faith despite our circumstances will surely help others. And I hope that it does. But the journey is ongoing, not easy, and it is not without its bad days. Days when I cannot wait for bed time because when I sleep is the only time my soul does not hurt. Days when I feel like people must surely be tired of seeing me cry all the time. Times like these do try the soul and everyone reacts in a different way and not always in a good way, even Christians. Some Christians choose to be angry with God. Some choose to walk away from the church. Some choose to stop living their own life. They choose. I choose also. Just like Joshua, “choose you this day whom you will serve...” (Joshua 24:15) Every day I choose to override my desire to just stop trying and curl up in a ball on the floor and cry. Every day I choose to continue to love God and respect His direction for my life even though I do not understand and my heart is broken. He does not give me all the answers. But He does give me a choice. Choice itself is a gift. But just like many gifts from God, we often do not recognize this because we are too focused on something else or we fail to look to God and His word to help us make these choices He gives us. We fail to give Him the glory even when we don’t understand. There was a reason and one day I will have that answer. But until that day comes, every day He gives me here I must choose this day whom I will serve.

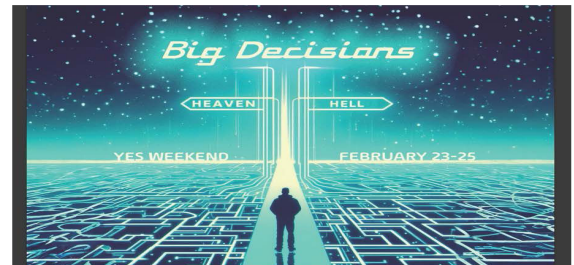
Receiving Wisdom

Have you ever walked down the aisle at the store looking for the box of wisdom? Have you ever opened the cabinet looking for the jar filled with wisdom? Of course not. There are sources of wisdom— parents, teachers, older church members, elders, preachers, etc. But to be surrounded by wise counsel does not make one wise. My encouragement is to be willing to receive wisdom. Learning how to listen is a great power to develop.

Solomon said,

”Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days” Proverbs 19:20

YES Weekend
Youth Enrichment Seminar



2024
February 23 - 25

*“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”
~Joshua 24:15*

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

”And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.”

Psalm 40: 3



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