



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

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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.

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HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

I Have Sinned, pt. 3 **The Nature of Sin**

Joshua Cantrell

Sin Brings Sadness

The sad, sordid, sorry state the young man was in was due to sin. The boy's greatest pain was spiritual. We must all come to realize the awful and destructive nature of sin. No good has ever come from sin. No one has ever improved his life by committing sin. Nothing has ever gotten better as the result of sin. No benefit to the world or any human being has come as the result of sin.

Sin is dark and destructive. It causes physical death and eternal death. Of all the words in the human language, "sin" is far and away the worst we have. For all the things that are awful in the world are probably sinful. Hatred, strife, lies, murder, and mistreating others are all sin.

The picture of sin could not be better than the one the Lord painted for us in this account of the prodigal son. The boy was in a pig's pen. The pig is a greedy, unpleasant animal. He feeds and gorges until he can eat no more. The boy had lived his life this way. The pig and the pig's pen are dirty. This young man had become dirty. Try to imagine how clean this boy was when he left home. Now try to imagine how filthy and dirty he was in the pen. The filth on his body was only surpassed by the condition of his soul. Let us all pray that we can appreciate how sin dirties our spiritual man. The pig's pen smelled. The stench of the pen had to be horrible. In the pig's pen the boy was miserable. This well describes our lives when sin dominates them.

Sin Is Irrational

It was not until he came to himself that the young man admitted his sin. The implication is that in sin we are not thinking and acting as we ought. It is evident that the condition the boy was in was not in harmony with right thinking. His father had loved him, provided for him, housed him, and taught him his entire life. His father had blessed him, provided him an inheritance, and even consented to him when he asked to have his portion.

Having received such treatment, care, and love, it is reasonable to reciprocate the same, but he did not. He packed his things and walked out of his father's house to go and live among strangers. He took the goods saved by his father and graciously given to him and wasted them on harlots. He left his family and joined himself to fake friends who stayed with him as long as he had money. How often has this same sad scene been repeated by subsequent generations? Those who do not learn from his story are destined to repeat it.

Sin Is Selfish

When we give ourselves to sin, we are acting selfishly. Every sin is a selfish act. Eve saw the tree and she desired it. What God said become secondary to her desires. Cain offered what he desired, not what God commanded. The world gave itself to sin, and every imagination of man's heart was evil continually in the days of Noah. James summed it up best when he said, "But even man ... is drawn away of his own lust and enticed" (Jam. 1:14). This young man had acted selfishly, and this was what led him to pig's pen.

Another world closely associated the selfish nature of sin is the world pride. The young man thought a lot about himself and not nearly enough about God, his father, and family. Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall (Pro.16:18).

Admitting Sin Demonstrates the Best of Humanity

Admitting Sin Is Humble

While in the pig's pen, the young man said he had sinned. In the pen, he had an opportunity to reflect on his life and actions like he had never done before. Where once pride might have ruled his life, now he could see clearly where his high-handed decisions had led him. He could reflect on his father's goodness. He could reflect on his friends who had flown away as quickly as the money he had. It is humility that brings all men to Jesus, and humility is the beginning of every man's relationship with Jesus (Mat. 5:3).

Admitting Sin Is Helpful

There is no hope for one who will not admit his sin. God cannot forgive those who will not repent, and a person cannot repent until he admits his sin. The young man could not go home and be received by his father until he admitted his sin. If one has sin in his life, hope begins with admitting it and being willing to turn from it. The young man is a great example for us all. Hope is also seen in realizing that it does not matter what sin a person committed to enter the pig's pen. God will forgive all sin; therefore, there is no reason to withhold admitting all sin. The saints at Corinth were forgiven their sins (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The Galatians were also forgiven their sins (Gal. 5:19-22). Since God forgives sin, it does not matter what the sin is. The hope of returning home rests in the willingness to admit sin.

Application of Admitting Our Sin

Saying "I Have Sinned" Identifies Us We are not without significance in this world. There maybe six to eight billion people, but there is only one you. When we say, "I have sinned," we identify ourselves among the sea of humanity. Our identity demonstrates that we belong; we have a place in the world; and we are important.

YOUTH GROUP

MODEST BEGINNINGS

Jesus is the Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. However, when Jesus came into the world, He did not enter with a lot of fanfare or recognition by the world.

1. Born in an overlooked town (Luke 2:4)
2. Made His bed with the animals (Luke 2:7)
3. Family could only give a poor sacrifice (Luke 2:24)
4. Grew up in a backwoods town (Luke 2:39)

Kids, even from a young age, can see the differences between the rich and the poor. Jesus's modest beginnings teach us that it is not about being born into earthly riches. The God of the universe was willing to humble Himself to come as He did because He so loved you and me. It can be hard when you do not always have the nicest stuff. Jesus didn't have the nicest stuff in this life either.

This is certainly the case to God. He desires that we admit our sin so that he can save us from our sin. Admitting sin is identifying ourselves with God. We are choosing the Lord's side, and it is the only way we can.

Saying "I Have Sinned" Connects Us to Others

No one is an island; none of us live to ourselves; and none of us will die to ourselves. If we live or die, we are the Lord's. This young man sinned against heaven and his father. Our sins also affect others. Acknowledging them is among the greatest ways to restore relationships. Additionally, when we admit our sin, we are better equipped to be kind, patient, and long-suffering with others who sin. This is experienced only by those who admit their sin.

Saying "I Have Sinned" Connects Us to God

When we admit our sin, we admit that our relationship with God is in jeopardy. No other person can or will be held accountable for another person's sin but that person. Adam and Eve teach us this in the third chapter of the Bible. Let us never hide our sin. Let us never blame others for our sin. Let us all follow the young man's exemplary example and admit our sin and take responsibility for our actions. Only then can we hope to return and be restored to our Father.

Senior Saints

by John McShane

This week we will look at the commandment that has been broken rather often in our society. Exodus 20:16 states, "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." The dictionary definition of false testimony is the crime of willfully and knowingly making a false statement about a material fact while under oath. In the new testament, Ephesians 4:25 reads, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." Falsehood is defined as an untrue statement, absence of truth or accuracy, the practice of lying. On the national front, it seems as if the truth is sometimes hard to find. It seems that some believe that if you repeat a lie enough times, then it becomes the truth. In our personal lives, it seems that, at times, we don't want to acknowledge the whole truth regarding something, so we either omit part of the truth or shade it with a "little white lie." Sometimes one might lie to spare the hurt that the truth would cause. I sometimes wonder how much difference there is between a lie and a rumor. We all know how a rumor can grow as it travels the human highway until it becomes an outright lie, even if one is sincere. Everyone has an opinion about most things in life, and hopefully, that opinion is based on the truth. One of the best pieces of advice that I have been given is "Sometimes it is best to keep quiet and be thought stupid rather than speak and remove all doubt." If we can't speak the truth, then maybe we should remain silent. There is a place reserved for those that abuse Ephesians 4:25.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Brian Smith - heart
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg
 Carol Eason - sick
 Wadi Khoury - sick

John & Linda McShane
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Darlene Thompson - health
 Janelle Thrower - pain; blood clot
 Wesley & Neyome Brunson - sick
 Becky Sheumaker - sick

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

Updates & Prayer requests

Wadi Khoury is sick with covid.
Bobby Simpson is now home from the hospital.
Becky Sheumaker is home sick.

Last days to register for
YES Weekend - January 30, 2022
WWCC registration - February 5, 2022
 (more info on the board)

thank you There are thank you cards from
Janelle Thrower Ingrid Stewart
 on the bulletin board

Ladies Night Out
 will be on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:00 pm
Crispers at Lakeside Mall
 It will be a great time to fellowship!

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **January 30, 2022.** if you would like to give additional funds at other times of the month, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

January

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Steven Lloyd
 Closing Prayer Josh Potvin

Sunday, January 23, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Joseph's End of Life Instructions"
Genesis 50:24-26

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Ian Enamorado

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Brian Kenyon
 Greeter Brunson
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer T. Dindy, Jr.
 Lord's Table Alex Parramore
 Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Shearer
 P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
 Scripture reading/Prayer Cam'ron Bailey
 Lord's Table Alex Parramore
 Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer David Williams
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

January	February
23 - Youth-led svc, pm.	13 - Elders, deacons, & preachers mtg, 4pm
28 - Singing-Orange St.	18-20 - WWCC Spring Ladies Retreat
30 - Song service, pm	19 - Ladies Day Sebring Parkway
February	22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm
6 - fellowship in-service	25-27 - YES Weekend
8 - SFA men's b'fast	
12 - Youth group service project, 3pm	

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan 2, 2022	\$6,662.00
Jan 9	\$5,069.00
Jan 16	\$7,637.00
Contribution Average	\$6,456.00
Weekly budget	\$7,663.43

We all know how technology has a strong hold on the world today. We are on our phones no matter what. When we wake up, we check our phones, and we stay on them until we go to sleep. Although there are a handful who aren't as attached to their phones, they are attached to the TVs, watching the news or different shows every day.

We spend minutes, hours, and days on our phones, and not one time do we even think about studying the Bible. If it does happen to cross our mind, we say, "oh I'll read it tomorrow." We all know how that goes; tomorrow comes, and we never do it, but you know what we will do...get on our phones. We need to learn how to set it aside and realize all of our messages, videos, texts and emails will still be there when we get back from studying the Word. It can all wait. It is not as important as the Bible. So, take an hour or even 30 minutes out of your day to learn something new in the Bible. Instead of scrolling your problems away, read the word and learn how to handle those problems correctly. Just like texting and driving, put it down and focus on the road, the way to eternity. Psalms 1:2



Thank you for visiting

Hasani Harper

Leah Lobban

Ron Burton

Carl & Doris Cooper

Jacqueline Davis

Kaylee Dyal

Barbara Harris

When Life Gives You Lemons Romans 8:18

WWCC SPRING LADIES' RETREAT

COST: \$50

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2022

SPEAKERS:

ERIN ALLAN

LORI ANTEMESARIS

LAUREN BYNUM

PENNY SIMMONS

NADIA SMITH

KATRINA STEARSMAN

SUSAN STEARSMAN

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT

STEPHANIE KENYON (386.972.9615) OR

SABRINA TAGTOW (863.286.5811)

*Please Register by
February 5, 2022*

JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP: WWCC SPRING LADIES RETREAT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN UPLIFTING WEEKEND IN THE WORD, AND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR CHRISTIAN SISTERS!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

"And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

Luke 4:8

