

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

Did Jesus "Cuss" ?

T. Pierce Brown

While knocking on doors to try to set up Bible studies, I met a Unitarian with whom I had an interesting conversation. He said something like this: "I really appreciate Jesus, for he had so many human qualities. I feel that I can really relate to him when he got mad and cussed out the fig tree." He was referring to the story in Mark 11 where it says in verse 21, "And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Rabbi, behold the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away." I suppose the word "cuss" comes from a Southern pronunciation of "curse," just as we hear "work" pronounced "woik." In some sections of the country, "park" is pronounced "paak," and apparently, the Harvard pronunciation of "Cuba" is "Cuber."

At any rate, I asked him what he thought Jesus said to the fig tree, and he responded that he did not know. I pointed out to him that the curse Jesus placed on the tree is found in Mark 11:14, "No man eat fruit from thee henceforward forever." We need to understand that in the Bible the words "cursing" and "swearing" do not always have the same meaning that we normally apply to them. Most of my life I have assumed that when Peter began to curse and swear and say, "I know not the man" (Mark 14:71), he was using God's name in vain and all sorts of vile and ungodly language. It is not necessarily so, although we do not need to try to soften or explain away Peter's terrible sin. If he did no more than lie and deny the Lord, it is bad enough.

However, it may be of some value to us to know that the word used to describe his cursing is the same word used in Acts 23:12, "And when it was day, the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul." They may have said something like this, "May we starve to death if we do not kill Paul, for we swear that we will not eat or drink until he is dead." When Peter cursed and swore that he did not know Jesus, he might have said, "May God strike me dead if I know him. I swear that I never had anything to do with him."

Exactly what he said does not matter. We are simply trying to encourage each person to study more deeply what the Bible actually teaches on any subject and especially to distinguish between what we commonly mean by some word and what the Bible means by that word. Whether we use the word "cuss," which to most of us involves the use of vile, offensive, ungodly language, or some word that is actually used in the Bible, we need to know the meaning. We normally understand this about a few words, such as "baptism" or "church" and various other words. We realize that the common or denominational usage of the term "baptism" may be "a religious act by which water is applied to a person." In the Bible, it always refers to an immersion, whether literal or figurative, and may not involve water at all. It might be a baptism of fire, Holy Spirit or suffering.

Often, we do not use the same care in analyzing such terms as "adoption," "born again," "cursing" and many others. All of us should take the time to find out the Bible meaning of terms, especially those of us who write, preach or teach. If we do not, we may be a curse instead of a blessing, and might even be accursed (Galatians 1:9). That is, if a person does not know that the Gospel includes doctrine and commandments as well as the good news of God's love, he may be teaching a different "gospel" than that which Paul preached, and thus stand condemned.

That Where I Am, There You May Be Also

Gnatt Carter

Consider the following four passages from the New Testament. The Preparations of the Savior (John 14:1-6). He left this earth to “prepare a place” for His disciples. Jesus contrasted the common, single room house of the time with a house containing many abiding places. He would do all this (go, come again and receive) so that we could dwell or remain with Him forever, that where our Savior is we may be also.

The Reservations for the Faithful (1 Peter 1:3-5). God has made reservations for you! Where? In the beautiful place called heaven (cf. Colossians 1:5). This reservation is eternal life with God in the home He has prepared for the church of God. It is going to last; it simply does not fade away.

A City Prepared by God Himself (Hebrews 11:13-16). These men of faith confessed that this was not their final place of abode. “They were strangers and pilgrims” (v. 13). People who speak and live that way proclaim clearly that they are longing for and looking for a homeland (v. 14). “They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (v. 16).

“God Himself will be with them” (Revelation 21:3-4, 7). In heaven, we will dwell eternally with the God of heaven. Think about it. We will be in His awesome and holy presence (v. 3). God will be there to wipe away every tear from every eye. Because of this, there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. Why? “For the former things of this life have passed away” (v. 4). God will be our God, and we will be His children (v. 7).

One of the greatest expressions of love is willingness to be around someone, particularly for long periods of time. Take two people who have lived together in marriage for forty years. You can tell that they love each other because they have spent their entire lives being around each other. When you really love someone, you will want to spend time with him or her. You enjoy his or her company and companionship.

Now, think about the way God expressed His love for us. He sent His Son to die a horrific death on a cross so that we might live with Him. Moreover, not just live with Him, but live forever with Him! Christ left heaven and laid down His dear life for me that He might take me to glory to be ever in His presence (Hebrews 2:9-10).

Are you ready to meet Him when He comes again to take His faithful children home forever? What must I do to be prepared you ask? One must follow His authority in obedience to His clear commands (Colossians 3:17). “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be immersed in the name [or by the authority] of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38). Then, “if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7; cf. 8-10).

Consider this: Deity wants me to be with Him. The God who made this detailed and vast universe, the One who has all wisdom, power and knowledge desires that I come and live with Him forever and ever! He seeks to grant us the everlasting privilege and delight of dwelling in His all-glorious presence. As you go about your day, take a moment and meditate upon that profound thought. Could this be the most profound thought to ever enter and grip the heart of mankind, or to proceed from the mind of the infinite God? Ask yourself, “Am I prepared to live with Him?” (Revelation 22:14-21)

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: TaLeah Anderson's surgery went well and she is now home recuperating. Darnell Kirkland is undergoing some medical testing. Faith West, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone, Rosalind Coleman & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Jimmy Puckett, & Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage.

Others: Jeanne Frye, Janie & Sandy Given, Bill Carroll & Robie DeWitt.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 23rd - 25th: - Gospel meeting at the Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale at 7:00 p.m. Tom Holland will be the speaker. See bulletin board for details.

Jan. 24th: - Weeki Wachee Christian Camp Appreciation Dinner at 6:00 p.m. See bulletin board for details.

Jan. 30th, 31st & Feb. 1st: - 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.

Feb. 1st-4th: - Gospel Meeting at Sebring Parkway Church of Christ. The speaker is Don Blackwell of Southaven, Mississippi. See bulletin board for details

February 7th: - Ladies Day at the Sebring Church of Christ starts at 9:30. Breakfast and registration at 8:30. Jagie Kenyon will be the speaker. See bulletin for details.

Visitors

Butch & Arlene Carr, Tom & Teresa Bullard, John & Wanda Mason, George Beals, Carla Lee and Christian Radford.

A problem not worth praying about isn't worth worrying about.

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS



This Week's Message
"About two minutes"

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

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

January

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

Sunday January 25, 2015 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Phil Fife
Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
Att. Cards Sebastian & Quadarius
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wed. January 28, 2015

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

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

Sunday, February 1, 2015 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Closing Prayer Hiram Kemp
Greeters Jason & Jenna Hendrix
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 4, 2015

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec 28 \$4359.21
Jan 4 \$4,223.45
Jan 11 \$4,277.60
Jan 18 \$4,357.80
Contribution Average \$4,286.28
2015 Weekly Budget \$4,302.98

"Remember Now Your Creator"

Solomon wrote, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Eccl. 12:1). In this context, there are four reasons why it is best for people to remember God in their youth. The principles, of course, apply to everyone, not just young people. First, the Creator should be remembered because the time of youth will not last forever. Solomon also said to "Rejoice ... in your youth, And let your heart cheer you ... Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment," then added, "For childhood and youth are vanity" (Eccl. 11:9-10). "Vanity" refers to something, like wind, that cannot be caught and contained. On the surface it seems dangerous to advise young people to live after "your heart," but this advice is coupled with a reminder that everything will be brought before God in judgment. Second, the Creator should be remembered while the opportunity is available (Eccl. 12:1). As age advances, it is less easy to remember God (because of "too many irons in the fire"), but God wants our best right now! "Difficult [evil, KJV] days" do not refer to moral wickedness but to calamity (Job 2:10; Psalms. 37:19). When bad things happen to people who have a shallow relationship with God, they often quit. Thus, the sooner we cultivate a good relationship with God the better. Then when trials arise, we will be strong in Christ to endure! Third, the Creator should be remembered because everyone will die one day. Solomon depicted death as the collapsing of a dilapidated house (Eccl. 12:2-7). Hopefully, we will all live a long, prosperous life before departing, but there is *(continued below)*

Stand in
awe of God



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday, Feb. 1 Bible Bowl practice for our Bible Bowl team members (Courtney, Olivia, Kyle, Lorelly, Sophia, Antonio, Tucker, and Darrenicka). Meet at 3 pm at the Kenyons.

Sunday, Feb. 8 L2L day beginning at 2:00 pm at the church building. We are very thankful for our young people and all those who work with them. Our kids are worth the sacrifice!

WORTHLESS ABUSED
CHEAP AFRAID HATED
DEPRESSED ADDICTED
SCARS
YES WEEKEND 2015
Forest Park Church of Christ

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!

(continued from above) no guarantee (James 4:14). Fourth, the Creator should be remembered because He created us for a twofold purpose: to fear Him and to keep His commandments. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil" (Eccl. 12:13-14). "Fear" is reverent awe that grows from faith. To "fear God" is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 1:7), and it is also life's "conclusion," or purpose! To "keep His commandments" is the only way to truly express our love and respect for God (John 14:15). Do we "remember our Creator" right now, in obedience to Him, while the opportunity is present? ❤️ *Brian*

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