

# Last Two “Beatitudes”

not merely “peace keepers,” but they seek and promote the “peace of God” (Mt. 5:9), which involves overcoming evil with good (1 Pet. 3:9-12), and is even possible in the midst of conflict (Jn. 16:33). Since “sons” share the characteristics of their father, those who make peace imitate God. The final beatitude, “persecuted for righteousness’ sake” (Mt. 5:10), involves those who are willing to suffer any kind of loss or injury for their loyalty to Christ (1 Pet. 4:12-16). Matthew gives the world’s reaction to the genuine character of those in the kingdom. Persecution results from maintaining this character (Mt. 5:11 compare with 2 Tim. 3:12), but those who suffer are indeed “blessed” (fortunate) (Mt. 5:12; Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 3:14). “Reville” means to heap insults upon (Mk. 15:32), and “persecute” literally means to hunt down, run after, and/or drive out (Mt. 23:34). Persecution, however, is reason to rejoice (Mt. 5:12; 1 Pet. 1:6; 4:13), for it brings “great . . . reward” in heaven. It also places one in good company (Lk. 13:33; Jn. 15:18-20). Are we of the character that Jesus desires? How willing are we to suffer for Him?  *Brian*

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



**Sunday, February 9** -- Will be our next L2L Sunday. Time is drawing closer to the “Big Meeting” in Orlando, which this year is April 18-20. We appreciate all those who continue to help and who continue to be flexible with the schedule. Special thanks to Becky who continues to work very hard behind the scenes!

**Saturday, February 15** -- Is our next scheduled youth devotional and activity. If you would like to host one of these events, the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board by the main entrance door. Our young people (and adults) benefit greatly by your hosting these devos. Thanks for helping our young people grow!



**YES Weekend 2014 will be here soon. We have not participated in this before, but we look forward to a great weekend with our youth. We are in the process figuring out logistics. If you would like to go or have questions about it, see Brian.**

**Join The “Berean Bunch” On Sunday Evening at 5:45**

Join us for some fun Bible learning and an occasional new song! We appreciate our young people who are diligently studying the Book of Acts. Come assess your knowledge of the Bible!

# 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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[www.sfacc.net](http://www.sfacc.net)

## For the Love of Good Books

*Dennis Gullledge*

Solomon wrote, "Of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). I might also add that of the rising cost of books there is no end. But, I love good books anyway. For over twenty-five years, I have been building a religious library. Occasionally I prune it, but it continues to grow with regular additions both old and new. How important are good books? Edwin Percy Whipple wrote, "Good books are the most precious of blessings to a people; bad books are among the worst of curses." Paul wanted his books and parchments (2 Timothy 4:13). I have never wanted a book for the sake of having a book. I have always sought what I feel are good books. Some bad books, saturated with error, are having an adverse effect upon our brotherhood today. Book buying has long been a passion (some would say an occupational hazard) with me. Alice Williams Brotherton said, "Books we must have though we lack bread." Thankfully, I have never had to go begging bread for the sake of a good book. Austin Phelps said, "Wear the old coat and buy the new book." I've been blessed to do both.

Why this attraction to books? Books are a Gospel preacher's tools. Guy N. Woods believed that an effective teacher of the Good Book must be a student of many books. Amos Bronson Alcott wrote, "Books are the most mannerly of companions, accessible at all times, in all moods, frankly declaring the author's mind, without offense." William Ellery Channing said, "It is chiefly through books that we enjoy association with superior minds... In the best books, great men talk to us, give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours." Even in this age of CD-ROMs, books are superior. Today, one can buy the works of Alexander Campbell, Moses Lard, J.W. McGarvey and Barton W. Stone on CD, but I already have most of them in books. If I should ever lose my books in a terrible conflagration, I would have to resort to the new technology because many of the volumes I have are irreplaceable. Until then, give me a book and a lamp anytime.

Books are to be used. John Mason Brown said, "A book for me is something to be read, not kept under glass or in a safe. I want to dog-ear it, to underline it, to annotate it and mark my favorite passages, and make my own index on the blank pages at the back." I used to wonder if I should mark in certain books I have. Then I heard Rex A. Turner, Sr., say, "A book that is too good to write in is too good." I have books written in by previous owners both known and unknown. They are treasured.

In the rapid change of this apostate age, we need to re-read some of the old books by faithful men that once set a straight course for the truth. Eugene Field said, "Women are by nature fickle, and so are men...Not so with books, for books cannot change. A thousand years hence they are what you find them today, speaking the same words, holding forth the same comfort." "Old books are best," said Beverly Chew. Amen!

# The Importance of Leadership

*Paul R. Mobley, Sr.*

**T**he early church was led by elders (Acts 20:17) appointed under strict rules (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Requirements of being blameless, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, patient and not greedy for money suggest that leaders should be models--role models--for members and for non-members. Therefore, anything in one's past that can bring criticism, or turn persons away, is not good, and such men should not be chosen. It does not make any difference whether the event is valid according to the Bible or not for it is the affect on people that matters. And all of these should be taken into account. Perfection is not likely, yet some things have an undesirable impact on Christians and non-Christians, for most people view church leaders as special people, thus the role model need.

Church leaders should never be consciously guilty of prejudice. They should never sort people, especially members. Sorting, categorizing, grouping members, should not be, for each member is equal to all other members. Paul publicly rebuked Peter for prejudice (Galatians 2:11-14).

Elders were given instructions: "Take heed therefore unto your selves, and to all the flock" (Acts 20:28). Peter adds more, saying, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:1-3). The leaders are to be role models and thus look at self in light of God's Word, and then to care for the members, each one, as would a shepherd of his flock of sheep.

Both passages infer that church leaders should be involved with every member as a shepherd would be with his sheep, conducting themselves as servants taking care of their master's property, namely Christ in this case. In Acts 6:1-4, we see that the apostles, which are examples for church leaders, taking their responsibilities of prayer and ministering God's Word more important than social or "lesser" activities, for example.

David was a shepherd of sheep for his father Jesse. When a lion and a bear came at the sheep David slew both, protecting the sheep (1 Samuel 17:34-36). When the giant Philistine came against God's people, David slew the giant, protecting the people (1 Samuel 17:48-50).

Jesus was also a shepherd, saying, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (John 10:14). Jesus also knew what shepherding his Master's sheep meant. He went into the Temple and cast out the sellers, cleansing the temple (Luke 19:45-46). Jesus also emphasized the care of even one sheep saying, "What man of you having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which was lost, until he find it" (Luke 15:4).

Together, then, we see elders as actively interested and involved in the needs of every member, and protecting them, and feeding them the Word of God. Seen also is the freedom to serve God, fellow Christians and non-Christians, that Christ gave every Christian, being preserved by the leaders.

Is the church growing, not for the sake of numbers, but because of teaching people the truth of God? No. Is the church stagnated or dead in that area? Live churches move out into the community in faith. It is often true that stagnant churches focus on programs rather than people.

Charles F. Kettering said, "If you want to kill any idea in the world today, get a committee working on it." Add to that this action, if you want to dilute a teaching of the Bible until it is little more than soft soap get a committee to working on it.

Stagnant, dead churches come to a "can't" mentality. What happened to "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13)? Live churches rarely use the word "can't," and then only when forced to, acting in faith in God and Christ.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Ken Luigs fell, and is in LRMC, Rm. M533.

Wanda Bruno is at LRMC, in Rm. M329. Sam Bolding was in LRMC after a fall, but is back at Oakbridge HCC. Jacquelin Dopwell has to have more tests. Rembert Allen, Artis Bassett, June Cooper, Kathy Strickland, Ron Ford, Duane Nelson, Ann Howard, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Gary Thrower is out of ICU. He has gained partial use of his right arm, but his speech has been affected by the stroke. Jimmy Puckett, Danny Stephens, Naomi Zamot, Dorothy Trice & Lewis Tillis.

**Shut In Members:** Artis Bassett, Ann Howard, Kenny Luigs, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

**Others:** Marilyn Eick, a friend of Phil & Dottie Fife is undergoing chemotherapy. Frank Woods is in the care of Hospice. Timothy Teel, Ann Caldwell, Michael Ray, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

## Upcoming Events

**Feb. 1st:** - Ladies Day at Sebring Parkway Church of Christ from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. The speaker will be Alisa Leonard. RSVP by Jan. 29th. at (863) 385-7443, or e-mail: secretary@sebringcoc.com.

**Feb. 2nd:** - "Fellowship in Service" after the evening worship service.

**Feb. 15th: Men's Leadership Day** at So. Fla. Ave. Church of Christ. We want all male members, including elders and deacons to attend. Breakfast is at 8:00 am. Devotionals will begin at 9:00. **See bulletin board for more information on all the above events.**

## Visitors

George & Marion Beals, Brooks & Laura Boyd, Shelby Cox & Megan, Bill & Jane Howell, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Cozort, Mrs. Sherisa Cozart & son. Tom Evans, Jane Jessee, Joe & Karen Pickler, Carl & Cathy Powell, Alicia Smith & Latraile, Katrina Stearsman & sons. Jackie & Joyce Stearsman, Will & Autumn Vann & Mac. Ron & Mary Ann Weisenstine.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### January

Jeremy Padilla ..... **Table** ..... Kyle Williams  
Fred Strickland ..... **Assist** ..... Ken Walker

### February

Stacey Paulin ..... **Table** ..... Josh Estridge  
Tucker Sweeney ..... **Assist** ..... Antonio Martin

### January 26, 2014

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Antonio Martin  
**Prayer** ..... Stacey Paulin

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... C. J. Grimes  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Greeters** ..... The Hendrix Family  
**Att. Cards** ..... Sebastian Rapley & Quadarius Askew  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Jason Hendrix

Wed. January 29, 2014

**Song Leader** ..... Antonio Martin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857*

### Sunday, February 2, 2014

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Prayer** ..... Brian Kenyon

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Jim Turner  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Chuck Wyatt

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeremy Padilla  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bob Pratt  
**Greeters** ..... Josh & Marissa Estridge  
**Att. Cards** ..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 5, 2014

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Dec. 29 ..... \$10,386.45  
Jan. 05 ..... \$3,945.20  
Jan. 12 ..... \$ 3,773.34  
Jan. 19 ..... \$ 4,303.55  
**Contribution Average** ..... \$ 4,007.36  
**2014 Weekly Budget** ..... \$ 4,256.38

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message  
"The Vineyard"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

