



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 04 January 23, 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

Find us on
YouTube & Facebook

HOME OF

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.

BIBLE "BAD GUYS": THE MAN OF SIN

Brian R. Kenyon

While studying the Book of Revelation, I noticed commentators use the terms "man of sin," "the Antichrist," and "the beast" as if they were all interchangeable, referring to the same entity, which they usually assert is some sort of supernatural "bad guy." It must be noted that while all "bad guys," even in recent history, have some things in common (e.g., arrogance, deception, government backing, use of violence, etc.), similarity does not mean sameness. For example, all false teachers are not the same, but are similarly known by their fruit (Mt. 7:15-20)! In this article, we will examine what the Bible teaches about "the man of sin," one of the major "bad guys" some put into the Book of Revelation.

CONTEXT OF THE "MAN OF SIN"

First and Second Thessalonians have more to say about the Second Coming of Christ, per capita of verses, than any other subject. Thus, it should not be surprising that the "man of sin" is mentioned in such a context (2 Thes. 2:3-12). Paul began that immediate context by warning the church not to "be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come" (2 Thes. 2:1-2). Obviously, there were some who were putting words in Paul's mouth or claiming by his pen that the Second Coming had already happened, which it had not nor would anyone know when it would happen (cf. 1 Thes. 5:1-5). In fact, Paul declared that certain things had to happen before Christ could return. This did not mean that Christ would immediately come after those events, but only that those events would have to happen before Christ could come (cf. the destruction of Jerusalem would have to happen before the end of the world, though not immediately, Mt. 24:3-51).

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. (2 Thes. 2:3-7)

Paul said there must first come a "falling away." We do not know exactly to what that refers, but the Greek word behind it (*apostasia*, ἀποστασία) is from where our word "apostasy" comes. Many connect this "apostasy" to the Roman Catholic Church, but that also seems to be making similarities sameness. The Roman Catholic Church did not "crown" its first Pope until around AD 600, but Paul said the "mystery of lawlessness" was already working as he wrote (2 Thes

2:6). Yes, the philosophies and seeds of Roman Catholicism (and every other false religious system) were already at work in the first century. However, Paul was not dealing with philosophies and seeds, but with a real tangible occurrence the Thessalonians could know at the time Paul wrote.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE “MAN OF SIN”

Paul gave several descriptions for the “man of sin.” First, he was “lawless,” which means he disregarded God’s law (2 Thes. 2:3a, 8a). Second, he was called “the son of perdition” (2 Thes. 2:3b), which means he belonged to or was characterized by destruction. Like Judas, he was destined to be destroyed (Jn. 17:12), but all by his own choosing (cf. Acts 1:15-20). Third, he “opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God” (2 Thes. 2:4a), which basically means he thought and acted as if he were a sovereign deity (cf. Dan. 11:36; 2 Cor. 10:3-5). Fourth, he “sits as God in the temple of God” (2 Thes. 2:4b), which is not literal (the literal Jewish temple was in Jerusalem), but figuratively depicted the arrogant exercising of his authority, disregarding any accountability for his lawless actions, “showing himself that he is God [displaying himself as being God, NAS95]” (cf. Ek. 28:2, 6, 9). Fifth, because his coming was “according to the working of Satan” (2 Thes. 2:9-10 cf. Eph. 6:12), he came “with all power, signs, and lying wonders ... with all unrighteous deception.” Only God and His servants could actually perform real miracles (cf. Acts 2:1-12; 8:14-17; Heb. 2:4), but there has never been a shortage of fakes who claimed to work miracles (cf. Ex. 7:8-13; Mt. 7:23; 24:24; Rev. 13:14). The “signs” were accepted as authentic by pleasure-in-unrighteousness seekers “who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thes. 2:10). Because people love pleasure over truth, God would send them “strong delusion that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thes. 2:11-12). God “sends” them “strong delusion [working of error, ASV; deluding influence, NAS95]” in the sense that He allows some evil to run its course, and those who refuse to accept His word are destined to destruction (cf. Ex. 8:39; 9:12; 1 Pet. 2:7-8). God will allow others to believe lies (like the “man of sin” is God), and be lost (cf. Gen. 3:15; 1 Kgs. 13:1-34).

CESSATION OF THE “MAN OF SIN”

Paul declared the “man of sin” would be blown away by God. After the restraining power would be taken out of the way (2 Thes. 2:7), “the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming” (2 Thes. 2:8). “Consume [slay, NAS95; kill, ESV]” (from *anaireo*, ἀναιρέω) means to do away with, kill (Mt. 2:16; Lk. 22:2); condemn to death (Acts 26:10). “Destroy [bring to an end, NAS95; bring to nothing, ESV]” (from *katargeo*, καταργέω) means to render ineffective, nullify, cancel; destroy, abolish, do away with (Rom. 6:6; 1 Cor. 13:8; 2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:14). The “man of sin” will be consumed and destroyed by the “breath of His mouth” and by the “brightness of His coming.” The word “breath [spirit, KJV]” is translated from *pneuma* (πνεῦμα), usually translated “spirit,” but can also mean “breath” or even “wind” (Jn. 3:8). In the present “man of sin” context, it could mean something like even a puff of God’s breath will totally wipe out this arrogant “bad guy,” or, more likely, the will of God expressed by His word is what will destroy the “man of sin” (cf. Ps. 33:6; Isa. 11:4). The “brightness of His coming” could not have referred to the Second Coming (because this age still stands, Mt. 28:20), but refers to a “coming” in judgement that will put away the “man of sin” (cf. Isa. 9:1; Mic. 1:3; Mt. 24:29-35)!

CONCLUSION

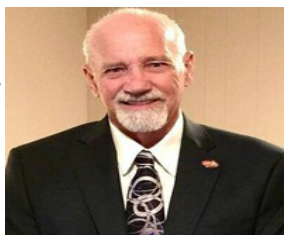
The “man of sin” about whom Paul wrote is not in this world anymore (cf. Heb. 9:27). However, others like him will continue to rise and fall. As Paul warned the Thessalonians, let us not be led astray by the powerful deception of the devil, but let us love truth that we be saved and set free (Jn. 8:31-32; Rom. 1:16)!

Upcoming Events
February
23-25 — YES Weekend (Valdosta)
March
29-31 — Lads to Leaders (Orlando)
The shepherds would like to meet with you and your family on the 3rd Sunday of each month (4:00-5:30 pm) to learn your ideas, concerns, and answer any questions. Call the office to let us know when it works best for you.

PRAYER LIST

Current: Jim Turner is in Tampa General Spring Hill with Covid. Wadi Khoury and Kathy Nester both have RSV. Joyce Burbage has had a stroke and has been moved to palliative care unit at LRH. **Continual:** Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); 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. **Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French

Our condolences to the family of Bobby Simpson who passed away on Friday Jan. 19, 2024. The funeral will be Friday January 26 at 11:00 am at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell FL. Please keep Linda and their family in your prayers.



THE SEBRING PARKWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
invites you to attend a

GOSPEL MEETING



with
DON BLACKWELL
of
Cookeville, Tennessee

"QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED"

Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
"Is Technology Killing God's People?"
Sunday Morning Worship Assembly - 10:00 a.m.
"What is Your Life but a Vapor?"
Sunday Morning Third Hour - 11:15 a.m.
"Is Your Heart Right with God?"
Monday Evening Worship Assembly - 7:00 p.m.
"What is True Repentance?"
Tuesday Evening Worship Assembly - 7:00 p.m.
"What will the Day of Judgment be Like?"
Wednesday Evening Worship Assembly - 7:00 p.m.
"Do I Need to be Rebaptized?"
(LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 1:00 P.M. ON SUNDAY.)

THE SEBRING PARKWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETS AT 3800 SEBRING PARKWAY IN SEBRING, FLORIDA.

For more information, please call (863) 385-7443, or e-mail us at sebringparkway@sebringcoc.com.

FEBRUARY 18-21, 2024

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!

Scheduled to Serve in January

Designated Elder Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle

Sunday, January 28, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Vince Daugherty
A Few More Exhortations (Heb. 13:22)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Rick Kenyon
Do Not Fear (Deut. 31:6-8)	

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Pratt/Thrower
Song/Pray before class	Stacey Paulin
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Joseph Faulk
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Paul Sweeney
Open/Close Building	Jason Hendrix
Attendance Cards	Sawyer/Klark
Sound Booth (both)	Brian Williams

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Brian and Jagie
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Tyler Anderson
Closing Prayer	Jarred Spivey

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	David Williams
Closing Prayer	Camron Bailey

How We Are Giving

January 7	\$6,239.00
January 14	\$9,302.00
January 21	\$6,594.00
Contribution Average	\$7,378.30
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!

Good Housekeeping

I do not like dusting!! That was my least favorite chore growing up. Mama had so many knickknacks and I dreaded having to dust each one. Now thorough dusting is limited to when I am in the mood—which may be two or three times a year. On those occasions I end up sneezing, itching and my arms end up with whelps on them. Crazy though the cycle is repeated because I refuse to change!

However, when it comes to my spiritual life, I can't afford to allow sin to accumulate in my life the way dust builds up around my house. When I commit sin; I need to acknowledge it, repent and ask God to forgive me. If I refuse to repent, it can lead to me being comfortable in my sins. (Hebrews 3:13 NKJV - "but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today.' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.")

Like David, I need to be humble and ready to beg for God's mercy and forgiveness. Psalm 51:1-3 (NKJV) "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." I can also pray, Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." A change is necessary!

Youth Section

V.Daugherty

Goodbye

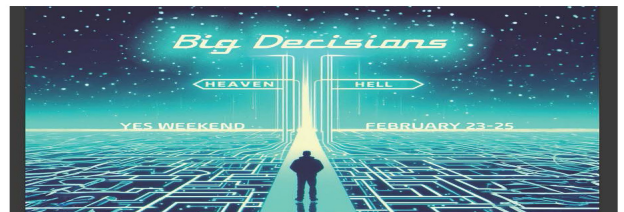
In the Lord of the Rings series, Bilbo thinks he would have a bit of fun surprising all of his guests at his birthday. He announced his leaving and slipped on a magical ring which made him disappear. It's hard saying goodbye. But in the Lord we don't really have to say goodbye. We can have a hope that we will be able to meet again. But for the time being, I will say, see you later.

"The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

YES Weekend

South 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

"Then He said to His disciples, " The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Matthews 9:37-38



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