



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 4 January 25, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

Sins of Omission

Vince Daugherty

Typically, when we think about sin, we think of sins that are done proactively --smoking, drinking, viewing pornography--actions committed that are wrong. These types of sins are known as sins of commission. Notice the word 'commit' in the word commission, like 'committing murder'. However, sins of commission are not the only way one can miss the mark. The opposite side of the coin is sins of omission. A sin of omission is a failure to or neglect to do what is right. Notice the word 'omit' in the word omission. "People generally believe that actively doing something bad (that is sins of commission) is, on average, worse than passively not doing something good (that is sins of omission)" (Peterson, Beyond Order, p. 97). Yet, even in our legal system, sins of omission can rise to the level of criminal. One recent offense, Larry Nassar, the Olympic team doctor for the women's national gymnastic team, was convicted of terrible crimes dating back to the 1990s, yet, he was not brought to justice till 2015. When details came out about Nassar's behavior, many said that the abuses were reported for years, and yet, it was covered up so abuses were able to continue. There can be serious consequences when people fail to take proper action.

Seize the moment

James 4:17 says, "[T]o him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." In this life, we are not guaranteed tomorrow. James 4:17 is the conclusion of a thought that begins in verse 13, "We ought not boast about our future plans, but rather we ought to say, 'If the Lord will, we will do, we shall live and do this or that'" (v. 15). To think we are guaranteed tomorrow, James says, is boastful, arrogant, and "evil" (v. 16). Rather, we ought to continually ask ourselves, what is the good that I should be aiming at, striving towards, and doing right now? When we let those opportunities pass us by, Scripture says it is sin. When people look back at the end of their life, they typically do not regret the bad actions that they have committed but have regret for missed opportunities. Christians ought not to have any regrets as those things that were done in error are repented of, and opportunities afforded to do good are seized.

Half the Work & Half the Success

One may object and say, 'isn't cleaning up the bad things good enough?' Jesus said, "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself and enter and dwell there; and the last state of the man is worse than the first" (Matt. 12:43-45). Jesus' instructions let us know it is not enough to simply get rid of the bad. That is only half of the work, we must also fill that empty space with the good. Otherwise, the dissipation will come flooding back to make a worse state than before. Christianity is not only turning away from sin but turning towards God (I Thess. 1:9). To sweep out the bad is to only deal with sins of commission, we must posit the good not omitting the good left undone.

Various Sins of Omission

On one occasion the crowd asked Jesus what they needed to do, He said, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He sent" (John 6:29).

Jesus desired to be Lord of their hearts, not their stomachs. There will be some at Judgment that will that will ask, "Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison..." (Matt. 25:44), to which Jesus will respond, "inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." (v. 45). Another good we must be willing to do is confess Jesus before men (Matt. 10:32), and a failure to do so will result in Jesus' denial of us before the Father (v. 33). Jesus has called us to be "salt" and "light" signifying the good works we must do that when men observe may glorify God (Matt. 5:16). When Jesus taught the parable of the "Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:25-37) there were some who we might expect to do good, yet they failed to act. The Samaritan is remembered as "good" because of the good actions he took. Proverbs 3:27,28 says, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it.' When you have it with you." James gives this hypothetical, "If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" (2:16). John said, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (I John 4:8). "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also out to love one another" (v. 11). "And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (v. 20).

Youth Group

John's Message

John the Baptist was a special preacher sent by God. He fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Luke 3:4). To prepare the people for the Lord, he told people to repent. The people needed to turn their hearts away from evil and rottenness towards love and kindness. To people with extra food or clothes, he told them to share with those who were in need (Luke 3:11); Tax collectors were not to take more than what was right (Luke 3:12,13); and soldiers were not to lie or bully people (Luke 3:14). Even children can learn those lessons--to be kind and giving. If we would listen and do the things that John taught, we can be well on our way to becoming friends with Jesus.

The Only Thing Necessary for Evil to Triumph

When we fail to act or speak up, there will be consequences. It may come in various forms such as willful blindness, half-truths, or plausible deniability, but "[f]ailure to look under the bed when you strongly suspect a monster is lurking there is not an advisable strategy" (JBP Beyond Order, p. 97). If one puts blinders over their eyes to the possible evidence for God's existence there are consequences. If one wilfully denies sin in their lives how can it be addressed? If one gives or receives Biblical teaching that does not take into consideration, "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) those things omitted may make all the difference! Hebrews 13:16 says, "do not forget to do good." James spoke positively about those who are "doers of the word" (1:22). He said in conclusion of the thought, "[p]ure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (v. 27). Let us be found doing good, not committing sins of omission, who knows what form of hell we can stave off if we do.

Senior Saints

by John McShane

This week we will look at the last commandment found in Exodus 20:17: Thou shall not covet. This is also found in Romans 13:9. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Covet is defined as strongly wanting something that someone else has. An example of covet is to dream of owning the car that your neighbor drives. To wish for with eagerness; to desire possession of, often enviously. We all, at some time in our lives, wish for things that we would like to have. It is only when that wish becomes the driving force in our life that we are guilty of the sin of covetousness. I found in my life when I finally was able to get something that I desired for some time that the result was not always the one I had hoped. Many times in life, it is better to sit back and take an in-depth second look at the item we want. Usually, as we age, covetousness becomes less of a problem in our lives as we get comfortable with what we have. Trying to keep up with the world's definition of success is often an exercise in futility. If there is one thing that we should covet, it is where we want to spend eternity. 1 Timothy 6:6-12, "But godliness with contentment is great gain For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." In Philippians 4:11, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

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
 Janis Waldon - asthma
 Smith Family - sick

PRAYER LIST

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
 Jeanelle Thrower - pain; blood clot
 Wesley Brunson - sick
 Zach Jones - sick
 Anita Shearer - sick with covid

(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

Zach Jones is sick.

Wesley Brunson is now home from the hospital.

The **Smith Family** are all sick.

Anita Shearer tested positive and is home very sick.

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to Kenny & Reba French for the death of their son, George French, early Tuesday morning in Texas.

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to the family of Shirley Turner, former member, who passed away last Sunday in Franklin, TN from complications after a fall

Rejoicing in hope Romans 12:12

The Lord recently added another soul to His kingdom. Let's welcome our new sister in Christ:

Holly Evans (1/24/22)

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." 1Cor. 1:6

thank you

There is a thank you card from
Tonya Anderson
 on the bulletin board

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.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

January

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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

Sunday, January 30, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "The Genealogy of Jesus Christ"
Matthew 1:18-25

6:00 P.M.

Sermon SINGING SERVICE
Devotion by Joshua Cantrell

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Bobby Sheumaker
 Greeter Waldon
 Song/prayer before class David Williams
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table Zach Jones
 Closing Prayer Andre Medley

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Stewart
 P.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Alex Parramore
 Lord's Table Zach Jones
 Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer David Williams
 Devo Vince Daugherty
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

January

30 - Song service, pm

30 - fellowship in-service

February

8 - SFA men's b'fast

12 - Youth group

service project, 3pm

13 - Elders, deacons, & preachers mtg, 4pm

February

18-20 - WWCC Spring

Ladies Retreat

19 - area-wide men's

b'fast at SFA

22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm

25-27 - YES Weekend

26 - Ladies Day

Port Charlotte

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan 9 \$5,069.00

Jan 16 \$7,637.00

Jan 23 \$3,872.00

Contribution Average \$5,810.00

Weekly budget \$7,663.43

- 1 - Reflect on the events of the day
2. Ask God to show me evidence of how He was with me.
3. Ask God to show me what troubles me about tomorrow.
4. Confess and trust Jesus to have grace & mercy for tomorrow.
5. Release today and tomorrow to Him.
6. Receive the gift of sleep until tomorrow when His new mercies arrive.



Last days to register for
YES Weekend - January 30, 2022
WWCC registration - February 5, 2022

(more info on the board)

When Life Gives You Lemons
 Romans 8:18

WWCC SPRING LADIES' RETREAT
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2022

COST: \$50

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!

SPEAKERS:
 ERIN ALLAN
 LORI ANTEMESARIS
 LAUREN BYNUM
 PENNY SIMMONS
 NADIA SMITH
 KATRINA STEARSMAN
 SUSAN STEARSMAN

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**"Serve the Lord with
 gladness!
 Come into His
 presence with
 singing!"**

Psalm 100:2



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Return Service Requested