

Make the Correct Choice

A wise man once wrote, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Pr. 23:23). In commenting on this verse, James E. Smith wrote, "Truth is the highest value, and one should spare no pains, cost or sacrifice to obtain it and then keep it safe. A godly person will not 'sell,' i.e., part with truth. One must not barter it for earthly profit or sensual pleasure. One must not permit it. One should not part with truth for any counterfeit, and they usually seem innocent and word in order to distinguish between the truth and the lie, because there is no truth own resources, for he is a liar and the father of that the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was actually good for her and that God did not want her to have what was best (Gen. 3:1-5). Satan still does this today! He will trick many into thinking that evil (i.e., "recreational" use of alcohol/drugs, premarital sex, etc.) is harmless and just part of having fun. Do not choose this lie! Rather, we must hold on to the truth so we can avoid the eternal consequences of sin. No amount of pleasure or fun in this life is worth an eternity in hell. May each of us "Buy the truth, and sell it not," always choosing God's ways! ❤️ *Brian Kenyon*



himself to be reasoned out of it or laughed out of consideration." The world offers many "alternatives" right. However, we must learn and know God's and the lie. The devil, also known as Satan, "does in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his it" (Jn. 8:44). He lied to Eve and convinced her



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



News



Sunday, Feb. 9 will be our next L2L Sunday. Time is drawing near for the big meeting in Orlando. Every child participating should be here to practice on all registered events. We may go "on the road" for a puppet performance.

Saturday, Feb. 15 is our youth devotional. It will be hosted by Brian and Jagie Kenyon in the late afternoon/early evening (well after men's leadership day).

Sunday, Feb. 16 will be the Bible Bowl test. All students are to take the test, whether or not they are on a Bible Bowl team. It is just a way to see how much of the Book of Acts we have learned. We will meet at the building at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Weekend, April 18-20 is the "big meeting" (aka L2L Convention). Adult chaperons for a day (half a day or an hour, etc.) would be appreciated. See Brian.

Sunday, April 27 will be the L2L banquet after morning services. Stay tuned for details on location. We are thinking of having it at a local restaurant.



If you would like to go, see Brian. This promises to be a great event for the spiritual growth of our kids!

Save the Date

VBS
June 22-26

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
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Our Lives Are Like Sunsets

Jay Launius

Last night just before dark, I had to go outside and take care of a few chores. We're spending a few days down at our little shack on the lake and I needed to go check on some things down at the boathouse. As I walked down toward the lake, I couldn't help but notice the sunset. The cypress trees, full of Spanish moss, were black, silhouetted against a cyan and pink sky. I thought to myself, "If only I had a camera."

I went on to the boathouse and finished in less than five minutes. As I started to walk across the pier, I glanced by over my shoulder to look at my sunset one more time. But the sky had darkened, the colors faded, the once beautiful sunset was gone. I thought, "It was here just a minute ago, now its gone, how could it disappear so quickly?" As I walked back to the house I just couldn't get over how quickly the sunset had vanished.

Our lives are like that sunset. We are here but a short time. The Psalmist wrote, "My days [are] like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass" (Psalm 102:11). Just like the setting of the sun, our lives are ever getting shorter. James described our lives as a "vapor" or puff of steam (James 4:14), full, thick, rolling and boiling with life. But no sooner does it begin to rise does it begin to evaporate. The shortness of life is no strange subject to the Christian. He realizes that he must do all that he can do during this short time God has blessed him with.

Have you put off things that should have been done in your service to God? Have you begun to think that you've got plenty of time to do those things that God wants you to do? If you have, watch the sunset today and see how quickly it disappears into the horizon. What have you done for God today?

The Son of Man and Compassion

Gary C. Hampton

Though it might seem to be improper for polite conversation, compassion is usually the English translation for *splanchnizomai* meaning properly “to be moved as to one’s bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, have compassion, (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity)” (Thayer 584). It is a fitting description for Jesus, as is seen by the fact that inspired men used it twelve times (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34; Mark 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22; Luke 7:13; 10:33; 15:20).

Jesus taught about compassion in answer to the lawyer’s question, “And who is my neighbor?” The Samaritan, in contrast to the priest and the Levite, saw the man who had been wounded and left for dead and had compassion on him. It was displayed in his pouring oil and wine on his wounds, bandaging them, setting him on his own beast of burden, taking him to an inn and caring for him (Luke 10:25-37). The Master also described the compassionate father of the prodigal running to him, falling on his neck and kissing him, before killing the fatted calf for a celebratory feast (Luke 15:11-24).

Jesus demonstrated compassion toward the hungry, sick, demon possessed and bereaved. He had compassion on the hungry multitudes, which led Him to feed the four thousand (Matthew 15:32-38; Mark 8:1-9). Our compassionate Lord touched and healed the leper (Mark 1:40-42). He cast unclean spirits out of those who were demon-possessed (Mark 5 5:1-20; 9:14-29). Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17).

Jesus’ compassion for the lost was boundless. The Savior saw people as a ripened harvest desperately needing workers to bring it in, then sent the disciples out by twos to preach (Matthew 9:36-10:1, 5-15). Our saddened Lord, who had just learned of the death of John, took the disciples aside to rest (Matthew 14:13a; Mark 6:30-32; Luke 9:10). The multitudes learned of it and followed (Luke 9:11a). His compassion compelled Him to tell them about the kingdom, healing their sick and feeding the five thousand (Matthew 14:13b-21; Luke 9:11b-17).

The Son of God came to earth as a man because He was compassionate (Hebrews 2:5-8). The Incarnate Son of Man tasted of death for every man (Hebrews 2:9-10). His purpose was to sanctify man and deliver him from bondage to the fear of death (Hebrews 2:11-15). He served as a merciful and faithful High Priest (Hebrews 2:16-17). Jesus understood mankind was being tempted (Hebrews 2:18), which “referred first to the action of putting someone to the test to see what good or evil is in the one tested, and second, because so many broke down under the test and committed sin, the word came to mean a ‘solicitation to do evil’” (Wuest 66). He came to give them “aid,” properly “to run to the cry (of those in danger); hence univ. to help, succor, bring aid” (Thayer).

God’s Son showed compassion for the multitudes when He fed them, healed their sick and sent the disciples forth on the limited commission. Yet, no greater act of compassion has ever been displayed than Jesus’ death on Calvary. Thank God for our compassionate Lord!

Works Cited:

Thayer, Joseph H. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.

Wuest, Kenneth S. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament*. Vol. Two. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1973.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ron Ford is having health problems.

Sharon Egolf will be having tests on February 10th. Jim Turner, Ken Luigs, Wanda Bruno, Sam Bolding, Jacqueline Dopwell, Rembert Allen, Artis Bassett, June Cooper, Ron Ford, Duane Nelson, Ann Howard, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Gary Thrower, Betty Hunter, Jimmy Puckett, Danny Stephens, Dorothy Trice & Lewis Tillis.

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

Others: Marilyn Eick, Frank Woods, Timothy Teel, Ann Caldwell, Michael Ray, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

Upcoming Events

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. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer if you plan to attend.

Feb. 15th: - "6th Annual Ladies Day" at Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven.

Feb. 18th: - The monthly FSOP class for women. Katy Franson from the Kissimmee Church of Christ will be the speaker. All ladies are invited to attend. The class is from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Mar. 1st: - "Ladies Day" at Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale.

Mar. 7th -9th: Gospel Meeting at Osprey Avenue Church of Christ in Sarasota. See bulletin board for information.

Visitors

Lexi Stuart, Ray & Sarah Medlock.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Bob McAnally and Brian Kenyon are at Freed Hardeman attending the lectureship this week. Pam Share will be returning from South Africa on March 7th.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

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

February 9, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Brian Kenyon
Prayer..... Jeremy Padilla

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jim Turner
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Charles Sanford
Closing Prayer Fred Rapley
Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
Att. Cards..... Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 12, 2014

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Fred Strickland

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

Sunday, February 16, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jeremy Padilla
Prayer..... Charles Sanford

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jim Turner
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Paul romine
Greeters Fred & Kathy Strickland
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 19, 2014

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jan. 12 \$3,773.34
Jan. 19 \$4,303.55
Jan. 26 \$ 4,092.10
Feb. 02 \$ 5,074.00
Contribution Average..... \$ 4,237.64
2014 Weekly Budget..... \$ 4,256.38

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"Are You Pulling?"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

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