

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 70 No. 07 02-14-17

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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.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## 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.

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IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Does God Owe Israel?

Brian R. Kenyon

Especially around presidential election time and/or other major events of national prominence, people will focus attention on Israel and how policy should be structured so as to favor Israel, because, after all, so it is claimed, "Israel is God's nation and people." A popular televangelist once proclaimed when an Israeli Prime Minister suffered a stroke that it was because he was "dividing God's land." The televangelist added, "And I would say, 'Woe unto any prime minister of Israel who takes a similar course to appease the E. U., the United Nations or the United States of America.' God says, 'This land belongs to me. You better leave it alone.'" Although the televangelist later apologized for this statement, it does reveal a long held belief by many that God still owes Israel the fulfillment of the promises He made in the Old Testament. Is this true? What does the Bible teach?

## Does God Owe Land to Israel?

A popular belief reflected in our culture is that the present "land of Palestine" still belongs to "Israel." However, an honest examination of Biblical evidence reveals otherwise. Yes, God did tell Abraham, "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you ... To your descendants I will give this land" (Gen. 12:1-7). This promise, however, was fulfilled in the days of Joshua. Before they entered into the land, God said, "When you ... act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger ... you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you" (Deut. 4:25-27). Their remaining in the land was conditioned upon their obedience to the Lord (cf. Deut. 28:58-68)!

Under Joshua, the land promise was completely fulfilled. "So the LORD gave to Israel *all the land* of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The LORD gave them rest all around, according to *all that He had sworn* to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. *All came to pass*" (Josh. 21:43-45, emphasis added). Eventually, God's people were carried away into captivity for, among other things, idolatry (cf. Hos. 4:12-19; 8:5-14; Amos

5:5; Mic. 1:1-9). Israel forfeited the land through their disobedience. Remember the condition: when Israel would “act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God,” they would be driven from the land. By God’s grace, a remnant from all twelve tribes did return to the land, and Israel’s identity was restored (cf. Ezr. 2:70; 3:1; 6:16-17; 8:35). Below, we will note a major implication of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, but suffice it to say for now that God has fulfilled His land promise to Israel. He does not owe them any land!

## Does God Owe “Chosen People” Status to Israel?

Without doubt, Old Testament Israel comprised the chosen people of God. Moses said, “the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers ...” (Deut. 7:6-8). When God entered into a covenant relationship with Israel, He said, “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:5-6). A covenant is an agreement that is binding on both parties. In covenants involving God, He has the authority, and what He says goes. When one party breaks a covenant, the other party is no longer obligated. God never breaks His part of the covenant! However, Israel, time and time again, broke the covenant. Therefore, God promised to “make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah” (Jer. 31:31-34). Israel, as the chosen people of God, was never meant to be a permanent part of God’s plan. Israel and the Law of Moses were God’s way of bringing us to Christ (Gal. 3:24-25). Now that Christ has come, the nation of Israel has fulfilled its purpose. Israel’s rejection of Christ allowed the Gentiles full access as the “people of God” (Rom. 11:25). People living today who call themselves “Israel” are not the “chosen people of God” as was Old Testament Israel!

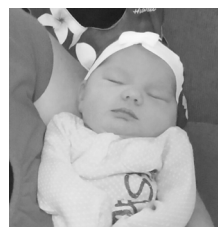
## Does Old Testament Israel Even Exist Today?

Paul said, “For they are not all Israel who are of Israel” (Rom. 9:6). Again, he said, “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God” (Rom. 2:28-29). The true “Israel of God” now is the church, those who “walk according to this rule [the Gospel]” (Gal. 6:16). Spiritually, ancient Israel’s Law of Moses ended when it was fulfilled at the cross (Col. 2:14). Politically, the nation of Israel came to an end with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. The “Israel” of today has no connection at all with the Israel we read about in the Bible. Because no ancient Jewish genealogical records survived AD 70, no “Israelite” today can prove his or her lineage back to one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup>And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; <sup>27</sup>For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.” <sup>28</sup>Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. **(Romans 11:25-28)**

## Conclusion

In 1998, the media correctly observed the 50th anniversary of today’s “Israel.” Should not that tell us something? Religious leaders, politicians, and we must realize that “all Israel” is to be saved like anyone else living in our age—through the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16; 11:25-36)! May we go back to the Bible and realize that God does not owe anyone anything. To the contrary, we owe God everything, including our very lives!



Congratulations to new again grandparents, Brian and Jagie Kenyon! **Karissa Mae Kenyon** was born to Rick and Stephanie on Feb. 6 @ 10:18 a.m., 7 lbs. 12 oz, 19.5 inches. Mom and baby are doing fine!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Bruce Longfellow's knee surgery went well and he is back at home. Evelyn Wyatt was in the hospital, but is now home and still weak. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Jacqueline Dopwell, Kenny French, JoAnn Hoback, Bill Long, Sharon Washington, Carol Eason, Elizabeth Tubbs, Josephine Bowman, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Sarah Blevins, Willie Williams, Owen Lewis, Bobby Cole and Deborah Leonard's husband who had been diagnosed with cancer and undergoing treatment.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

**Others:** Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Kim Gustafson, Leah Carroll, Carmen Carro and Jack Pinkert.

## Upcoming Events

**February 18th:** Youth Seminar at the Orange Street Church of Christ. Lunch will be provided so please R.S.V.P. to 863-967-1757.

**February 18th:** Men's Breakfast here at South Florida Ave. at 8:00 a.m.

**February 19th:** We are updating our Picture Board after services. Please see Dottie Fife if yours is needed.

**February 19th:** There will be a Ladies planning meeting to prepare for the Ladies Brunch here at S. Fla Ave. in April.

**Feb. 26th- Mar.2nd:** Gospel Meeting at the North Lakeland Church of Christ. See the bulletin board for more details.

## Congratulations

Grace McAnally has been awarded resident of the month at Azalea Park. This award is given for going above and beyond in lending a helping hand to all the other residents.

## Hither Thither and Yon

Donna Dones will be moving to Valrico to be with her daughter. We will miss her. Please wish her well.

## Visitors

Irwin & Lisa Johnson and Isaiah, Bob & Teresa Murrell, Heath Rowe, Danielle Eisenhard, Jerry & Jennifer Scarbrough, Brennan Roberson, Virginia Rupert, Mary Moore, Ted Okolichany, Jane Jessee, Victor Travis, Rikki Brooker, Cathy Garland and boys and Barbara Farmer.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### February

David Anderson ..... **Table** ..... David Williams  
Paul Romine ..... **Assist** ..... Robert Cooper

### Sunday, February 19, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**.....Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**.....Kenny French  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** .....Paul Romine  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Bingles  
**Att. Cards**.....Antonio and Paul  
**Closing Prayer** .....David Deal  
**Open & Close Building**.....Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 22, 2017

**Song Leader** .....Matt Willcut  
**Opening Prayer** .....Jeff Bingle  
**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 or 602-9005

### Sunday, February 26, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** .....Ken Walker  
**Prayer**.....C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**.....Kenny French  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** .....Ken Walker  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** .....Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**.....The Longfells  
**Att. Cards**..... Willcut boys  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jimmy Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building**.....Bobby Sheumaker

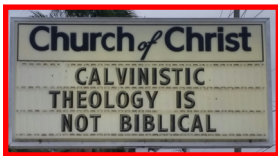
Wed. March 1, 2017

**Song Leader**.....Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**.....David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer**.....Kenny French

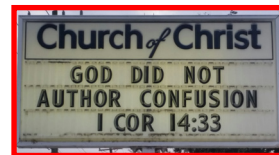
## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 22.....	\$4,759.20
Jan. 29 .....	\$5,875.61
Feb. 05.....	\$7,001.76
Feb. 12.....	\$4,853.00
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$5,432.03</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,716.51</b>

# Calvinism (part 4) "Limited Atonement"



As we have noted in the last few bulletins, the basic tenants of Calvinism can be remembered by the acrostic, T-U-L-I-P. The "L" stands for "limited atonement." In order to harmonize with "unconditional predestination," which is the tenant that teaches God has already randomly chosen from eternity everyone who will be lost and everyone who will be saved, to the point that there is nothing anyone can do to change his or her state (dealt with in last week's bulletin), Calvinism claims that Jesus did not die for everyone, but only for those unconditionally elected to salvation. That is, Christ only shed His blood for the ones whom God had already chosen as being saved. The Bible teaches otherwise! Christ died for all! John declared that Jesus "is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:2). "Propitiation" refers to the means by which sin is removed, or a sufficient sacrifice. The Hebrews writer declared, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). The benefits of Christ's death are available to all. Yes, God knows exactly who will be saved and who will be lost, but He does not make people lost or saved. We all have a choice. The reason why all will not be saved is because all will not meet the conditions. Jesus said, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). The "limited atonement" of Calvinism is false. Jesus shed His blood for all. Have we received Him? ❤️ Brian



*South Florida Avenue*  
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

## Do You Still Want This Bulletin? Then, Have It Delivered Your Way!



The Post Office, like any other business trying to keep up with this fast-paced, save-a-dollar culture in which we live, has been undergoing changes in the way they handle mail. These constant changes give us opportunity to reevaluate our bulletin distribution. Please let the office know how you would like to receive this bulletin.

- 1. Pick up a copy Wednesday night or Sunday.** Probably the most practical for our members. The actual bulletin would be clean and crisp; it would save labor, and it would cost no postage!
- 2. Have the church email you an electronic version.** Probably the most practical for our out of town friends and family. It would be quick delivery; it would save labor and cost no postage!
- 3. Receive it from the Post Office in your mailbox.** We realize some may still want it the "old fashioned way," and we are perfectly fine with that! **Let us know by March 1**