

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. 69 No.7 02-16-16

ELDERS

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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
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald.....Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

EMAIL

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WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Hosted by the
South Florida Avenue
church of Christ

FEBRUARY 20,
2016

Time: 8:00am-12:00pm

THEME
The Work of the Lord:
Serving Others



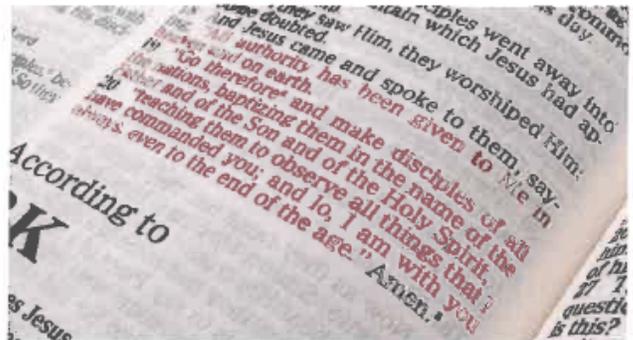
8:00-9:00	Breakfast
9:00-9:10	Welcome: - Announcements - Singing - Prayers
9:10-9:40	Devotional #1
9:40-9:45	Singing
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:15	Sessions: - Elders Class - Deacons Class - Ministers Class - Members Class
11:20-11:25	Singing
11:25-11:55	Devotional #2
11:55-12:00	Closing - Announcements - Singing - Prayer

South Florida Avenue church of Christ
1807 S. Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-682-4702
Email: sfa.church@gmail.com

For the Purpose of Planning the Food,
Please RSVP Online:
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

When On The Website, Please Click On
The Link Found On The Homepage

2016 CHURCHES OF CHRIST MEN'S LEADERSHIP DAY



ALL MEN ARE INVITED! THERE IS A CLASS FOR YOU!

Speakers Include:



Devotional #1
John Griffis of
Bartow, Florida

Topic: Doing Good Unto All Men



Devotional #2
Terrance Brownlow-Dindy of
Lakeland, Florida

Topic: Loving Your Neighbor



Ministers Class
Hiram Kemp of
Lakeland, Florida

Topic: Staying Active Outside
The Walls of The Church Building



Elders Class
Bob Bauer of
Auburndale, Florida

Topic: Protecting The Flock as an Elder



Members Class
Forest Antemesaris of
Auburndale, Florida

Topic: Letting Your Light Shine In A World of Darkness



Deacons Class
Chad Tagtow of
Auburndale, Florida

Topic: Understanding Why
Deacons Are Important To The
Lord's church

Ceremony or Ceremonialism?

T. P. Brown

The majority of denominational teachers ridicule some of the commands of God, such as baptism, as “mere ritual” or “ceremonialism.” We are reminded of a statement of Jesus in Matthew 23:23, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law; judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” He expresses the same idea in Luke 11:42. Notice carefully that He did not say, “Forget about the things you consider trifles.” He said, “These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

We have no right to take any command of God and suggest that it is not important. However, we do have the right and responsibility to know what things are more basic and central, and put proper emphasis on them in our teaching and living.

Because some religious leaders scoff at ceremonies, God has ordained that we need to make a distinction between “ceremonies” and “ceremonialism.” The Law of Moses, given by the authority of God, authorized certain washings of hands of the priests before offering sacrifices (Exodus 30:21). These were ceremonies ordained of God. Yet, the Pharisees had apparently considered washing as an act of great importance of itself, and had added many washings (Matthew 15:1-2) that had nothing to do with what God had commanded. Thereby, they had made void the Word of God by their traditions (Matthew 15:16), partly because they had perverted the commandments and made washings, per se, important, and partly because in so doing they made it impossible for the ordinary man to discern between a religious act that God had commanded, and a religious act that man had designed. That is, they made their ceremonial worship equivalent to, and sometimes even more significant than, God’s ordained ceremonies of worship.

Remember that a ceremony may be “a formal act prescribed by law.” That law may be God’s or man’s. Baptism is a ceremony. Taking the Lord’s Supper is a ceremony. They are not “church ordinances,” ordered by some group of religious persons for its own purposes. They are God’s ordinances—ceremonies ordained of God.

“Ceremonialism” would take those acts and give them sacramental value—from the idea that through the performance of the ritual itself, the grace of God is conferred upon the person. When baptism is viewed in this way—as a mere ceremonial act—two bad results are achieved, or two wrong attitudes produced.

First, one may view it as a sacramental or meritorious act, for Peter says, “Baptism doth also now save us” (1 Peter 3:21). Thus one may take a little baby, presumed to be tainted with “the original sin,” and perform some sort of ceremony, called “baptism,” which, it is assumed, will remove that taint. Even a man in a drunken stupor could be “baptized,” especially if he were at the point of death, and the act would release him from the guilt of sin. This is, in principle, what happens in cases of “Extreme Unction.” That is Roman Catholic doctrine, but there are probably more persons connected with the Lord’s church who have an idea like that than we would like to admit.

Second, in a rebellion against that unscriptural view, one may conclude that baptism is a “mere ritual” which has no value, and in rejecting the “ceremonial” view, reject the value or purpose of the ceremony itself that God ordained. We are not concerned now with which is worse, any more than we would be concerned with which is worse—stabbing a man to death with an ice pick, or shooting him with a rifle. They both produce death!

“Ceremonialism”—the act of merely going through a ritual—has NEVER had any value. However, ceremonies ordained of God and carried out by His authority, in the way He said, for the purpose He said, with the prerequisites or conditions He prescribed, have always been approved of God, and those complying with them have received His blessings!

If we are to have the mind of Christ, we will condemn “ceremonialism,” which may lead a person to “get baptized”—merely go through the ceremony—either to join the church of his choice, or so he will not be lost, or “take a piece of cracker and grape juice” (which is what some persons do instead of taking the Lord’s Supper), or do some other foolish or useless thing. Yet, we will approve of God-ordained ceremonies, which include a penitent believer being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, by the authority of Christ, and will involve a person’s spirit communing with God’s Spirit and being changed thereby as he properly engages in the ceremony of partaking of the Lord’s Supper in memory of the sacrificial love of our Lord. There is a difference. Make sure you know and practice it!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Duane Nelson is home from the hospital and feeling some better. Jacquelin Dopwell is in a lot of pain and she is awaiting test results as to whether she will have lung surgery. JoAnn Hoback is having some medical problems. Also keep, Betty Thornhill, Janet Crosby, Grace McAnally, Sharon Washington, Dolly Martin, Ginny Hamby, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix, Billy Moore, Debbi Kirkland, (Brenda Mask's sister in law), Warren Lane (friend of Darnell Kirkland), Jeanette Whitehall, (Linda Pennington's aunt) and Alyssa Buckner (friend of the Coopers).

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Claud Romine, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Betty Thornhill and Sharon Edler.

Others: Chrissi Fuesner and Sandy Given. Please pray for all of these.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 20th: Men's breakfast here at South Florida Ave. starting at 8:00 a.m. Following that will be the Men's Leadership Day. All men are invited. The theme is "The Work of the Lord: Serving Others". Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Feb. 20th: 8th Annual Ladies Day Program at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more info. There is also a sign up sheet if you plan on going.

Feb. 21st-24th: Gospel Meeting at the Okeechobee Church of Christ. Daniel Stearsman will be the speaker. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Feb. 26th-28th: Scrap the Weekend at the Central Florida Bible Camp. Bring your crafting or cropping supplies and enjoy fellowship with fellow enthusiasts. This also serves as a fund raiser for the camp. The flyer is on the bulletin board for more information.

Response

Taleah Anderson responded and asked for the prayers of the congregation on Sunday morning. Please encourage her and keep her in our prayers.

Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Scarbrough, Cheyenne Smith, Ron Brooks, Jane Kirkland, Dorothy Webb and Ted & Debra Okolichany.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** John McShane
Phil Fife..... **Assist** Kyle Williams

Sunday, February 21, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer..... C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters..... Tyler & Jessica Anderson
Att. Cards..... Sebastian & Antonio
Closing Prayer Frank Hamby
Open & Close Building..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 24, 2016

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer Jim Turner
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231

Sunday, February 28, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Williams
Prayer..... Frank Hamby

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sermon..... Bob McAnally
Closing Prayer Kenny French

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Sermon..... Brian Kenyon
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards..... Antonio & Quadarius
Closing Prayer John McShane
Open & Close Building..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. March 2, 2016

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 24.....	\$4,418.50
Jan. 31.....	\$5,386.00
Feb. 07.....	\$5,215.60
Feb. 14.....	\$5,077.00
Contribution Average	\$4,906.77
2015 Weekly Budget	\$4,422.60

THE DANGERS OF ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS PART 3

When illicit sexual relationships occur, the consequences are far worse than most people think before entering them. This series of articles is examining Proverbs 5, which depicts wisdom as a father giving his son instructions. Wisdom has warned against the deception of an “immoral woman” (Proverbs 5:1-6), and has said to stay as far away as possible from her because of the ruin that inevitably follows such relationships (Proverbs 5:7-8). Now, wisdom, as a father instructing his son, gives three specifics on the ruin and regret that will come as the result of sexual relations with an “immoral woman.” First, those in illicit sexual relationships will suffer physically. “Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one ¹¹And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed” (Proverbs 5:9, 11). This type of suffering would include sexually transmitted diseases, which are common even today in these relationships. It would also include the physical suffering that occurs by holding in guilt, as David suffered in connection with his illicit sexual relationship with Bathsheba (Psalm 32:3-4). A person’s entire being is consumed as a result. Second, there is material suffering. Wisdom warns, “Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner” (Proverbs 5:10). Losing wealth in illicit sexual relationships can happen several ways. One way is through the courts. It is illegal for minors to be involved in sexual relationships, and it may cost money to avert legal consequences. Another means of financial suffering is unwanted pregnancies. Child support is burdensome for those who have little or no income. Another loss of wealth for some adults is “hush (continued below)



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CHURCH OF CHRIST
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, Feb. 21 We will have a L2L scrapbook planning meeting. Young people not involved with the scrapbook should still come. It will be a good time for boys song leading and/or speech practice, Be at fellowship room @ 4:00 p.m.

Melvin Otey **Gospel Meeting** March 20-23



The Forrest Park church of Christ in Valdosta will host YES Weekend on Feb. 26-28, See Brian if you want to go so logistics can be worked out.

(continued from above) money” that may be required to keep this kind of relationship a secret. Third, those in illicit sexual relationships will suffer mentally. The guilty will say, “How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! ¹³I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! ¹⁴I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation” (Proverbs 5:12-14). When the initial thrill of the relationship is over and ruin is realized, the guilty will remember the instruction he received from those who loved him and how that instruction was rejected. All of this ruin could have been avoided if only wisdom was heeded! Young people, we DO NOT have to experience illicit sexual relationships to determine they are wrong. God’s wisdom has already spoken! Let us hear Him and keep ourselves pure for marriage (Matthew 19:5-9; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5). We will never regret that decision! ❤️ Brian