



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 8 February 21, 2023

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

### MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE  
(863) 682-4702

### EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto: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.....7:00 p.m.

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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Florida School of Preaching  
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Missionary - Huron, SD  
Casey & Emily Paulin

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Joey Treat ..... Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## Do You Believe There Is Something Better Than This Life? (Pt. 2)

Joshua Cantrell

### BUILDING OUR CONFIDENCE

The Prophets in the Old Testament looked forward to the day of the coming Messiah and his kingdom. Isaiah records the coming Messiah would come to “Teach us of his ways” (Isaiah 2:1-2). The confidence and assurance they had in the coming kingdom showed their dedication and belief that God had something great for his people. While many of them prophesied about the kingdom, the New Testament teaches us that something better is after this life for those who are in the kingdom. Confidence is defined as “To trust; to rely on, with a persuasion of faithfulness or veracity in the person trusted or of the reality of a fact; to give credit to; to believe in, with assurance; followed by in” (*Webster’s* definition of English language). The word is used over 50 times in the New Testament. Depending on the context of the word, we can note how it is being used.

As Paul writes to the church in Philippi, he reminds them that they are always in his prayers (Philippians 1:3-4). As we make our way through Chapter 1, Paul is going to show them the struggle he has in wanting to stay or to go be with the Lord. He records, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). Paul knew, and had the assurance, that there was something better than this life. While this life certainly has many things that captivate our attention, Paul’s aim and focus was always on heaven. He goes on to say, “But if I live In the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet, what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better” (Philippians 1:22-23). Paul makes it abundantly clear that he was looking forward to going to be with Jesus. While many have said, “I can never have faith like Paul.” I don’t believe God is asking us to. I don’t believe Paul had this confidence and assurance when we first meet him in scripture. I don’t believe Paul had this dedication when he is converted to Christ. By the time those in Philippi read this letter from Paul, he had suffered immensely for the cause of Christ. He is at a point in his life where he no longer looks backward, only forward.

The sufferings of this life hurt, and they do cause pain, but they are not intended to defeat us. They are there to build our faith, trust, and confidence in our God. Paul writes, “Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith. That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again” (Philippians 1:24-25). Paul made it clear to them, he was ready and looking forward to going to be with Jesus. But while he was here, he would strive and serve God’s kingdom. When we read scripture, it

(cont.)

should be a springboard to build our confidence in our God. We don't just read the Bible to get faith; we read it to continue what we have already come to believe.

David makes a clear case for where our confidence should be. The Bible records, "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes" (Psalm 118:6-9). Where do we put our confidence today? We believe there is something better than life because of the confidence we have in God. God keeps his promises. He cannot lie (1 Kings 8:56; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). The fact that God is a promise keeper, and he has assured us that there is something better than this life, should give us a boost in confidence to keep serving him, and keep sharing his message of the Gospel. Despite the battles and challenges in life, David puts all his confidence in God (Psalms 16:1-11).

The confidence David had in God was not based on convenience, but on conviction. As we walk with God, and commune with him, our confidence must be rooted and grounded in him. We follow God not just for the plan of the world, but for the plan for our individual lives. As we obey the Lord, we have an assurance of our salvation (1 John 2:3). Also, having a good conscience aids our confidence, for we will have nothing to hide. "The righteous are as bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1). Paul was confident that God would help those in Galatia, "I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be" (Galatians 5:10).

## BUILDING OUR ASSURANCE

As we look at our assurance in Christ, this will bring everything we have talked about together. Assurance is defined as, "The act of assuring, or of making a declaration in terms that furnish ground of confidence; as, I trusted to his assurances; or the act of furnishing any ground of full confidence" (*Baker's Bible Dictionary*). As Christians, we "sorrow not as those who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Not only do we have confidence there is something better than this life, we have assurance. We often sing the song, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine." As our Lord talked with his disciples, he was preparing them for a time when he would no longer be with them. He was going to send the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth (John 16:13). Beforehand he assures them he is going to prepare something for them. John records, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3). This is not just a prophecy, but also a promise. Jesus gave them the assurance and confidence they needed to keep going forward. When this life is over, we can "know" (1 John), that we will have heaven as our eternal home. Do we believe that there is something better than this life? We can all emphatically say, "YES!"

## Thank You SFA Ladies



## For Being the Change!

Special Thanks to our ladies who participated in the Weeki Wachee Ladies Retreat last weekend! Its organization was a tag-team effort with SFA and Orange Street taking the lead. Special thanks to Stephanie who was one of the main organizers and Toney for driving the church van! Stephanie and Rene' presented lessons. Several of our ladies read Scripture and prayers. In a religious environment where God's role for women is abused and abolished, it is refreshing to see our ladies Scripturally making a difference for good! To God be the glory!

## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Kathy Nester is home now. , David Anderson had hand surgery on Monday, **Continual:** Bob Pratt (health); Brenda Mask (blood pressure issues); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Charles Paulin (health); Jim Turner (health). Margaret Coone (health).

**Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, and Bob Pratt

**Extended family and Friends:** prayer requests are emailed each week and posted on the bulletin board. **Please help us keep these lists updated by informing the office of known changes in status.**

Ciera Edwards requested prayers to help her be a better spiritual leader in her home and a better mother. Let us do what we can to encourage her and keep her and her family in our prayers.

**POTLUCK LUNCHEON** - Join us on Sunday, Feb. 26th after morning worship as we fellowship together. We will be honoring the Cantrell family as they will be leaving us to begin their new work in Georgia. Please bring enough food for your family and some to share! **Team 3** will be the team that helps in the kitchen.

**Evangelism Seminar-March 12-15 @FSOP**  
**Training the Saved to Teach the Lost**  
**Rob Whitacre - Speaker**  
**Classes are from 9:00 am-4:00 pm**



The SFA church directory is now available on the **Instant Church Directory App**. Privacy and safety is an absolute factor! To access the app, your email address **must** be registered with the office to verify identity. If the office does not have your email, access to the directory will be **denied**. If you need assistance or more information about it, please see Rick Kenyon.

**Polishing  
The Pulpit**  
**August 16-24.2023**

Some have expressed interest in chipping-in with other SFA members to rent a cottage in the area and attend. If you are interested, please let the office know so we can start a list.

**Save the Date:**  
 March 12-15, 2023  
 SFA Spring Gospel Mtg.  
**Speaker:**  
 Victor Eskew  
**Theme:** God's Spiritual Family

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### February

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Announcements .....Jimmy Sweeney  
 Song Leader/prayer.....Tucker Sweeney  
 Devo..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Prayer .....Terrance Dindy

### Sunday, February 26, 2023

#### 10:30 A.M

Still Standing (Dan. 3:4-6)  
 Josh Cantrell

#### 6:00 P.M.

Through the Valley (Ps. 23:1-2)- J. Cantrell

### Those to Serve

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class .....David Williams  
 Announcements .....D. Anderson  
 Song Leader .....Andre Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Josh Estridge  
 Lord'sTable (**both**).....Wayne Shearer  
 Closing Prayer .....Jeff Bingle  
 Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Deal  
 Greeters .....The Bingles  
 Attendance cards (**both**) .....Colby/Adrian  
 Sound Booth (**both**).....Kyle Bingle

P.M. Song Leader .....David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer .....Steve Tydings  
 Closing Prayer .....Brian Kenyon  
 Greeters PM.....E&C Smith

### Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Announcements .....Frank Hamby  
 Song Leader/prayer.....Tucker Sweeney  
 Devo..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Prayer .....Terrance Dindy

### Upcoming Events 2023

#### February

23- Ladies Night Out 7:00 Mimi's Italian Ice  
 24-26 -YES Weekend  
 24 -Sing at Orange Street church of Christ 7:00 pm  
 26 -Potluck luncheon at S.F.A. for Cantrell's  
 26 - Mar 2- Gospel meeting at North Lkld.

#### March

1- Quarterly Challenge  
 3-5- Gospel Meeting @Pinellas Pk church of Christ  
 7- Senior Saints meeting

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 5..... \$5,522.00  
 Feb. 12 ..... \$9,913.00  
 Feb. 19.....\$6,029.00  
**Contribution Average.....\$7,525.96**  
**Weekly budget ..... \$7,410.00**

On Our Knees

As babies we start out on our backs, a few months later we move to our knees and then finally to our feet. Problems in life can leave us on our backs. If we look up, we will see where our help is—God in Heaven. We must then get down on our knees and pray for help in our time of trials and tribulations. How long will we have to be on our knees? We don't know. God will lift us up and set us back on our feet in His time and according to His will. If it takes being on our knees for months or years, just remember God is close. It's during these times that we are closest to God. On our knees! The hymn says, "Kneel at the cross, leave ev'ry care; kneel at the cross, Jesus will meet you there." Like Job we pray, "If I sin, then you mark me, and will not acquit me of my iniquity. If I am wicked, woe to me; even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am full of disgrace; see my misery." Job 10:14-15. Then like David we need to wait on the Lord, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14.

Youth Section

**Lessons from I Timothy**  
**Beware**

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons" (I Timothy 4:1). Sometimes people have a naive mindset towards other people. They are shocked or surprised when they find out people in the church sometimes do not behave like a Christian should. The word beware is actually a combination of the word "be" and "aware". My plea is to BE AWARE! Paul tells some things that Timothy ought to look out for: one who speaks lies, a hypocrite, one with a seared conscience, someone forbidding marriage, someone commanding to abstain from certain foods (4:2,3). The best way to be aware is to know the truth that is found in God's word. Just because someone uses fancy words or is a smooth talker does not make the message they are speaking true. A bank teller has specific training to know the specific markings of a genuine dollar bill. They do not study the counterfeit but the real. Because they know how to spot the real, the fakes become obvious. You too can be aware of the false when you properly examine the true word of God. - V.D.

**Gospel Meeting**

Eagle Lake Church of Christ

Speaker: Eddie Gilpin

April 16-19, 2023

Sun. 9:30, 10:30 and 1:30

Mon-Wed 7:00 pm

**Ladies Day**

Theme : Wash Day

Speaker: Jeanny Gilpin

Sat. March 25, 2023

8:30-11:30

rsvp by Sat Mar. 25th

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**South Florida Avenue**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*"I hereby command you, Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

*Joshua 1:9*



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