

Standing Against the Devil

YES Weekend 2014 was a tremendous event that encouraged and uplifted those present! The lessons were delivered so that the application of truth was clear. Many young people responded to the invitation, confessing their sins. This weekend brought to memory the need all Christians have, especially our teenaged ones, of being “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Eph. 6:10). Note three important truths about this strength. First, the strength needed is not physical, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood” (Eph. 6:12a). The real struggle is with unseen forces—“against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12b). Second, since the battle is not physical, God provides the spiritual equipment we need to fight. We often refer to this as the Christian armor (Eph. 6:13-17). The equipment listed is ordered as a literal Roman soldier would dress. The waist girded with truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (which is the word of God) are all for spiritual battle success! Third, prayer activates the armor and watchfulness maintains it. Paul concluded the section, “praying always with all prayer and supplication ... being watchful ... with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Eph. 6:18). May we encourage each other to stand strong in the Lord and use what God has given us to succeed in spiritual battle! ❤️ *Brian Kenyon*



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



Sunday, March 9 will be the next L2L day. Our young people and their mentors are working very hard. Stay tuned for announcements concerning individual practices before then.
Saturday, March 15 There will be a youth devotional and activity at the Kenyons. Stay tuned for further details.

Weekend, April 18-20 is the “big meeting” (aka L2L Convention). Adult chaperons to help keep track of kids would be appreciated. See Brian if you can help.

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



Ladies Day, Saturday, May 3, 2014. It's not too early for our young ladies to plan to be involved!

Save the Date
VBS
June 22-26



YES Weekend 2014 group: Zsazeli, Tucker, Olivia, Elly, Jagie, Brian, Lorelly, Lexi (from Central in Haines City), Kyle, Sophia, and Rosalind. Special thanks to our elders for including this spiritually uplifting event in the budget!

Teachers are needed for our next quarter. Having worked with our young people, I am more convinced now than ever before that every Scriptural sacrifice is worth helping to strengthen them to be faithful to God! See Brian or Jason.

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Robert McAnally
(863) 682-3600

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Does It Matter What We Believe?

Steve Higginbotham



A brother told me that this news story would make a good article. He even gave me the title for the article. I'm just filling in the blank.

Just yesterday, I learned of the death of Jamie Coots. Jamie died after being bitten by a poisonous snake during a "snake handling church service." Coots could have

received medical treatment, but he refused it based on his religious convictions and died.

Coots became a celebrity of sorts by appearing in the National Geographic television series, "Snake Salvation." This television show documented the beliefs and practices of a Pentecostal church in southeast Kentucky that "handles poisonous snakes."

Members of this religious sect believe that Mark 16:17-18 commands them to engage in this practice. However, a more careful study of the Bible will reveal that Jesus wasn't commanding Christians to be involved in a "side show" involving snakes. He was stating that his followers would be given miraculous abilities that would assist them in confirming the message they preached. An example of what Jesus was talking about is found in Acts 28:1-6 when the apostle Paul was bitten by a poisonous viper on the Island of Malta. Instead of dying as the natives surely thought he would, Paul simply shook the snake from his hand, and he was alright. Furthermore, these miraculous gifts were temporary (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Ephesians 4:8-13) and were never intended to last for all time.

Sadly, Mr. Coots' misguided faith and interpretation of the Bible cost him his life. While most of us reading this will not make the same mistake that Mr. Coots did, we may make other mistakes that could be just as harmful to our spiritual health. If we don't give great care and attention to reading and studying the word of God, we too can be hurt.

You see, in spite of what you've heard some people say, it does matter what you believe.

Lessons Learned from Adam and Eve

Rodney Nulph

When we consider the very first couple, Adam and Eve, we are made to ponder the reason for their transgression of God's Law. Although centuries removed from that Paradise, the lessons are as relevant as the current breath on our lips. Moses records the events for us in somewhat great detail in Genesis 3:1-7. While there are many lessons one could learn from that first couple, let us consider three of great significance.

In the first place, from the first couple we learn the importance of a godly mate. How different would this narrative read if Eve would have had the support of a godly mate, or if Adam would have had Eve's positive persuasion? When the serpent came to her and tempted her to sin (cf. Genesis 3:4), what strength could she have gained if only Adam would have stepped up and accepted his spiritual responsibility. A terrible recipe indeed is found when one mate has not the strength from the other! The importance of a godly mate cannot be over-emphasized! Young and old alike, before you make that lifelong commitment to a person of the opposite sex, ask yourself, "Will this person help me go to heaven?" We learn from the first couple the importance of a godly mate.

In the second place, from the first couple we learn the intention of the Serpent. Satan came to Eve with the very intent to cause her to succumb to temptation, thus becoming separated from God. Did Eve really believe Satan's lie that she would not die, although God had already made it perfectly clear that death would be unavoidable if this first couple did not follow God's commands (cf. Genesis 2:17; 3:4)? Why is it the case that we as humans are so naïve when it comes to sin and Satan's schemes? Why are we often so quick to believe a lie and shun the truth? Hindsight proves that the Serpent's intention was to bring separation between man and God. The Serpent was and is crafty, sly and very subtle (cf. Genesis 3:1; Ephesians 6:11). He never announces himself for who he really is, but rather "slithers" around with the total intent to destroy all that is good and right. Satan's intention is to take mankind into sin farther than he wants to go, keep him longer than he wants to stay and cost him more than he ever imagined! We learn from the first couple the intention of the Serpent.

In the third place, from the first couple we learn the influence of a choice. Each one has many choices to make every day. The choices we make in life essentially determine the outcome of our lives. The choice Adam and Eve made to eat of the forbidden fruit cost them a great deal (cf. Genesis 3:16-19). The choices we make in life are so important! One choice can change the day and ultimately change our lives, either negatively or positively. When mankind chooses according to the flesh, and the desires therein, the consequences will always be severe! "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). We need God's written revelation (i.e. the Bible), to direct us in making the proper choices. We learn from the first couple the influence of a choice.

Centuries removed from that peaceful Eden, and yet the storm of sin still lingers near. Have we learned the importance of a godly mate? Do we understand the intention of the Serpent? And do we realize the influence of a choice? When you, dear reader, are confronted with your forbidden fruit, remember the lessons learned from Adam and Eve!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jim Turner will need more surgery for his aneurism. Ron Ford, Jacquelin Dopwell, Sam Bolding, Ken Luigs, Artis Bassett, Duane Nelson, Ann Howard, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: We received word that Ron Ford's brother passed away in Ft. Walton Beach. We have no more information at this time. Bob & June Cooper's son, Allen had back surgery Monday in Atlanta, and the surgery went well. Heather Burns' grandmother, Linda Crews broke her ankle & has to have surgery. Gary Thrower, Danny Stephens, Dorothy Trice & Lewis Tillis.

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

Others: Lystra Ortiz's daughter Alison Bridgemohan, may need back surgery. Frances Carn, (aunt of Jane Kirkland), Marilyn Eick, Frank Woods, Timothy Teel, Ann Caldwell, Michael Ray, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

Upcoming Events

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

March 2nd: "Fellowship in Service" after our evening worship in the fellowship hall. Please bring finger foods.

Mar. 7th - 9th: - Gospel meeting at Osprey Avenue Church of Christ in Sarasota.

Mar. 15th: Semi Annual Picnic/Sing @ Mary Holland Park, Bartow -- N. Jackson Ave. will host this event. **See bulletin board for more information on the above events.**

Visitors

Ron Cox, Patricia Haynes, Fran Hinson, John Osborn.

In Memory

The beautiful floral arrangement Sunday was in loving memory of the life of Evelyn Thomas McAnally. Her birthday would have been Febuary 26th. These were given by her husband, Bob McAnally and children, Everette McAnally, Elizabeth Sisk and Ed McAnally.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Paul Romine Table David Anderson
Kenny French Assist..... Jeremy Padilla

Sunday, March 2, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer Charles Sanford

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Greeters The Sweeney Family
Att. Cards..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 5, 2014

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Chuck Wyatt
Closing Prayer Jim Turner

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

March 9, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer..... Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C. J. Grimes
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams
Greeters The D. Anderson Family
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 12, 2014

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Antonio Martin
Closing Prayer Jeremy Padilla

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Feb. 02	\$5,074.00
Feb. 09	\$4,427.30
Feb. 16	\$4,432.00
Feb. 23	\$3,990.00
Contribution Average	\$4,254.69
2014 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message
"Growing Older"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

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