



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 09 February 27, 2024

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

OFFICE PHONE
(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

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.....6:30 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD
Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

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

YOU'RE INVITED

MARCH 22-24, 2024

GOSPEL MEETING



Join us
for a weekend
of studying
God's word
and enjoying
fellowship



STEVEN FORD
PREACHING

MEETING TOPICS:

Friday March 22

@ 7:00pm Existence of God *

Saturday, March 23

@ 7:00pm Three Portraits of Faith *

Sunday, March 24

@ 9:30am A Christ Centered Life

@ 10:30am The Love of the Father

@ 6:00pm Serving from an Empty Cup *

***Please stay for refreshments & fellowship
following each evening service.**

INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, & NEIGHBORS!

COMPLYING WITH CIVIL LAW

Brian R. Kenyon

Civil government was instituted when God, for the first time, allowed humans to inflict punishment on law-breakers by telling Noah and his sons, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man” (Genesis 9:6). From that time, God has allowed mankind to form governments. In the New Testament, Paul wrote, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Romans 13:1-2). The “governing authorities [higher powers, KJV]” is a reference to civil governments (cf. 1 Peter 2:13-15). Let us note two truths about civil government from this passage.

CHRISTIANS MUST SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENT

Each person is to be submissive to the civil government under which he or she lives because civil government has been established by God. The term “be subject [be in subjection, NAS]” is translated from a word (*hupotasso*, ὑποτάσσω) that means to “subject oneself, be subjected or subordinate ... of submission in the sense of voluntary yielding” (Bauer, et al. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 848). The biblical Greek word is found forty times in the New Testament, where it may be translated “subject” (Luke 2:51), “submit” (Colossians 3:18), or “be obedient” (Titus 2:5). This verb was also used in military contexts of a subordinate’s relationship to his superior in ranking. The term “appointed [ordained, KJV; established, NAS; instituted, ESV] by God” lets us know that civil government is by divine design. The word translated “appointed” (*tasso*, τάσσω) is also found in Acts 13:48; 22:10; 28:23. Because God ordained civil government does not mean He approves of all governments or rulers (cf. Daniel 4:28-37), but simply that He established and authorized the institution.

RESISTING GOVERNMENT IS RESISTING GOD

Since resisting civil government is to resist God’s law, and to resist God’s law is sin and will result in condemnation (Romans 6:23), to resist civil law is to receive condemnation if unrepentant (Romans 13:2). Paul went on to write, “For he [civil government] is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister [i.e., deacon], an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake” (Romans 13:4-5). Civil government is ordained by God to uphold the good and punish and deter evil, even to the point of capital punishment (“bear the sword”), if deemed appropriate (cf. Ecclesiastes 8:11; John 19:10-11; Acts 25:11). There is one exception to obeying civil government. When civil governments command what is against God’s will, His people cannot comply, for “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29 cf. Exodus 1:15-22; 2:1-4; Daniel 3:13-18; 6:4-10).

CONCLUSION

Civil government is an example of God’s magnificent wisdom, and will always benefit society when those involved follow the principles set forth in God’s word (cf. Proverbs 3:5-6 14:34). Even in what we might consider minor things like complying with state regulations for incorporations, we must submit to civil law (1 Peter 2:13-15). “Officers” in a legal corporation sense in no way thwart God’s design of local church government. Christ is still the head (Colossians 1:18), and shepherds still oversee the local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4), even in areas of the church’s compliance to civil government.

Upcoming Events
February
25-29 — Joshua Cantrell @ North Lakeland
March
5 - Senior Saints
12 — FSOP Ladies Class
22-24 — Steven Ford @ SFA
29-31 — Lads to Leaders (Orlando)

God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth 1 Tim 2:4

PRAYER LIST

Current: Stacey Paulin is home but still in extreme pain, awaiting surgery. Fran Gabaldon is awaiting an appointment at Moffit. Stacey Wilson fell from a ladder and is pretty sore, Mike Tubbs is in the hospital with sepsis, George Davis's son is in the hospital in Jamaica.

Continual: Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Linda Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Jim Turner (health)

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

THANK YOU

- *Marian Beals* wishes to thank everyone for the prayers on her behalf.
- *The Potvin's* appreciate the prayers and concerns on their behalf as well!
- The family of *Joyce Burbage* thanks everyone for the kind words, thoughts and prayers for the loss of their mom, and also for the beautiful plant given in remembrance of her.

Gospel Meeting

N. Lakeland church of Christ

Feb. 25-29, 2024

Speaker: Josh Cantrell

7:00 PM

- **Wed-These All Died in Faith**
- **Thurs-Being Branded in the Image of Jesus**

The Elders would like to meet with each SFA family to hear your ideas, concerns and questions.

They will be at the building on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please call the office or set up a time and day that works best for your family.

There will be a Gospel Meeting at Alachua Church of Christ
March 20-22 @ 7:00 PM

Bob Bauer will be the Guest Speaker each night.

Wed- "The Urgency of Evangelism"

Thurs- "Embracing the Responsibilities of an Older Christian"

Fri- "An Everliving Hope"

Scheduled to Serve in March

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
Wednesday, February 28, 2024	
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	TBD
Closing Prayer	Camron Bailey
Sunday, March 3, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Rick Kenyon
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
"At Least I'll Be Comfortable" (Isa. 39:1-8)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Bingles
Song/Pray before class	David Williams
Announcements (both)	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Lord's Table (both)	Nigel St Bernard
Closing Prayer	George Beals
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	Klark/Sawyer
Sound Booth (both)	Jason
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Williams
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Rick Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Brian Williams
Wednesday, March 6, 2024	
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Joseph Faulk
Closing Prayer	Steve Tydings
How We Are Giving	
February 11	\$7,192.00
February 18	\$4,726.00
February 25	\$5,816.00
Contribution Average	\$7,135.14
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

OUR ONLY GOD

You may have seen a bumper sticker that reads "Coexist." The idea behind the sticker was to suggest there is a place for everyone, no matter what religion they practice or believe in, and that we can all live in peace. God's word does not direct Christians to live according to worldly views and ideas. Exodus 20:3 says "Do not have other gods besides me." In the Old Testament the Israelites were instructed to stay pure by not embracing the pagan gods of their neighbors and not to intermarry which God knew would lead them to stray. Our God is a jealous God as stated in Deuteronomy 4:24 - "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

God sent His only Son to save our souls. God is patient and wants everyone to repent and turn to Him as stated in 2 Peter 3:9. We should strive to be a light as we discipline our thoughts, words and deeds to align with what Jesus taught us during His ministry.

Being in the world is a challenge. If we draw close to God by spending time in His Word, having an active prayer life, and focusing on doing God's will in our lives, we can be sure of God's promises. 1 John 5:13 says "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

Annual Meeting (for civil law requirement)

To comply with state regulations, nominations must be made and a vote taken for corporate officers each year. This business will be taken care of March 10, 2024. The following nominations have been made: David Anderson, chairman; Brian Kenyon, vice-chairman; David Deal, secretary; Bobby Sheumaker, treasurer. Nominations may be made from the floor if the nominee's willingness to accept the nomination is presented in writing to the chairman prior to the election.

This I Have Learned About LIFE

I have learned that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is try to be someone who is not difficult to love.

I have learned that sometimes it takes years to build up trust, but only seconds to destroy trust.

I have learned that it's not what you have in life, but who you have in your life that counts.

I have learned that you can do something in a few minutes that will give you heartache for life.

I have learned that you are responsible for what you do, no matter how you feel.

I have learned that you are in control of your attitude. You choose your attitude.

I have learned that heroes (the really great people of this world) are the people who do what has to be done, regardless of how they feel and regardless of the consequences.

I have learned that maturity has more to do with attitude, dependability and taking responsibility for your life, than the number of birthday's you've had.

I have learned that no matter how good a friend is, you are going to hurt each other once in a while, and forgiveness is essential to lasting friendship.

I have learned that forgiving others is sometimes easier than forgiving yourself. - David Sain

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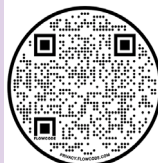
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6



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