



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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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

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

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

Christianity Is Not For The Faint Of Heart

Joshua Cantrell

When Jesus taught those who followed it, their heart immediately knew this was a message they had never heard before. Ultimately, their conclusion was right. The teachings of Christ are not from the philosophies of men but from the mind of God. His teachings will force us to make decisions. These decisions will make us better and more like him. When we walk with Christ, it is all or nothing. There is no middle ground; there is no halfway point (Mk. 12:30).

One of the worst things we can do in life is quit. I am sure we have experienced quitting before. Although it is good to quit some things, it is not good to quit others. When it comes to the subject of God, the worst thing we can do is quit. If we have started a relationship with God, we need not quit that. Quitting God defies logic. It betrays understanding. No matter what we quit God for, we are going to lose. We are trading the greater for the lesser no matter what it is. When we make commitments, we often do not know what we are getting ourselves into. That can also be true with the subject of God.

Following Jesus must have been and remain an interesting concept as we move through the scriptures. Jesus, on one occasion, stopped in the middle of teaching, turned to the crowd, and asked them an important question. "You want to follow me?" There are things we need to know about following Jesus. Luke records these words, "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:25-26). Three times in this section of scripture Jesus says, "he cannot be my disciple." No one will ever be able to say, "Jesus did not tell me."

Often in life, we sign up for projects or workout programs. Afterward, we have some thoughts as to why we signed up for that. "If only I had known!" Jesus looked at these people and decided to challenge their hearts. If you're going to follow after me, you need to know and understand some things. This is not a walk in the park. This is not something we quit when it gets too hard. This is a lifelong commitment that we must stick with if we want to have eternal life.

We Have To Count The Cost

Throughout the Bible, we see how people started with God and decided to quit when things got too hard. Jeremiah says concerning Israel, "For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet not gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evil; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (Jer. 2:10-13). God says the foreign nations do not even do this. They are committed to their false gods, but God's people will not even show him half the respect.

Judas quit as well (Mt. 27). The Bible says of him, "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priest and elders. Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Mt. 27:3-5).

In John 6, Jesus is once again teaching. He taught them he was the bread of life, and if they would eat of his flesh, they would live in him, and he in them (Jn. 6:56). John records, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (Jn. 6:66). They did not count up the cost on what it would take to follow after Jesus. John would write concerning the church at Ephesus how they "left their first love" (Rev. 2:4). Paul speaks of how Demas "loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10).

Being A Christian

The word Christian means to be "a follower of Christ." Too often, that word is misunderstood. This doctrine, this religion reviled by the Holy Spirit to the apostles is that which came from the very mind of God. Scripture is often referred to as the doctrine of Christ (Mt. 10:16-20). John says we are not to add nor take away from it (Rev. 22:18-19). Jude says, "Beloved. When I gave all diligence to write unto of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Christianity is the mind of Christ revealed (1 Cor. 2:9-13). Scripture produces Christianity (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Christianity is the result of the new covenant that Christ died for (Acts. 20:28). All the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah point to Jesus. He took that Old Testament out of the way (Col. 2:14). This covenant was established on better promises (Heb. 2). Christians (Isa. 62:1-2), were going to be from both Jew and Gentile.

Being Faint

One of the early records of the word "faint" is found in Genesis 25. When Esau came to Jacob about the pottage, the Bible says Esau was faint (Gen. 25:29-30). Moses also uses the word (Deut. 20:6-8). Moses says

a man who is both fearful and fainthearted will cause others to get killed. Moses tells them to count the cost before they enter battle. It would be unfortunate to enter a battle depending on someone to help in the conflict, only to realize he was not willing to help in the fight. Luke records "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought to pray, and not to faint" (Lk. 18:1). Paul would say, "Therefore we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not" (2 Cor. 4:1).

Conclusion

When we sum it all up together, Christianity is not for those who will faint or quit on those with whom they enter battle. This does not mean a person cannot or will not become tired. A faithful child of God can easily become tired of the sin and evil in the world. Can a child of God become weary and tired? Yes, but we must not faint. We all become discouraged, most of the prophets were, but they did not faint. Elders, preachers, members, we all get tired, but we have to keep going despite what is tempting us to quit.



Glenda Fontaine Beebe
received her eternal reward
on February 27, 2022

"Bless are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest
from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"
Revelation 14:13

YOUTH GROUP

Vince Daugherty

When Jesus was on earth, He had 12 special disciples known as the 12 Apostles. Interestingly, Jesus spent all day and night in contemplation over the ones to be his closest companions (v. 12). Some we know more about like Peter and John. Some we know very little about like James the Less or Thaddeus. Unfortunately, we firmly remember Judas who betrayed Jesus (v. 16). Be wise in choosing your friends. Over time, you tend to become more and more like the people you hang out with. One boy liked to hang out with his friends at the bowling alley, but his friends liked to smoke cigarettes. When he came home, his mother got very angry with him and accused him of smelling like smoke. Though he had not been smoking, his clothes wreaked of it. First Corinthians 15:33 says that "bad company corrupts good morals." If the smell of smoke is that effective, imagine what spiritual impact is made if we only associate with worldly-minded people?

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Rick Kenyon

Mr. Rogers will always be known for his mild-tempered, kind-hearted, and downright neighborly demeanor. From the world's perspective, he is the epitome of wholesomeness and an ideal role model. As Christians, we know that Jesus fits that bill. Strangely enough, even though both are good role models who desire people to be the best they can be, people feel more comfortable talking about Mr. Rogers than Jesus. Why is that? For starters, Mr. Rogers doesn't make anyone feel uncomfortable. Jesus put people at ease but also made statements like: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Mt. 10:34). Second, Mr. Rogers does not pass judgment on others. On the other hand, while Jesus "came not to judge the world, but to save the world (Jn. 12:47), He also knows that "righteous judgment" is expected (Jn. 7:24). Finally, Mr. Rogers doesn't invoke divine authority as a reason for moral living. Jesus commanded, "Be... perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). The fundamental difference between Mr. Rogers and Jesus is that Jesus requires more of us and from us because He has done more for us - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." (Eph. 2:10). The world might want more neighbors, but Jesus knows that the most neighborly of people are His disciples.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Brian Smith - heart
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems
 Carol Eason - sick
 Toney Wilson - sick
 David Anderson - surgery

PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane - moving
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - health
 Anita Shearer - health
 Bill Long - rehab & covid

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer
 Please call before visiting

Updates & Prayer requests

Anita Shearer is still having fever and fluctuations in oxygen levels.

Ellen Shearer is in the hospital.

"Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!"

Psalm 4:1

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

Steve Beebe for the death of Glenda Fontaine Beebe on Sunday, February 27, 2022.

Visitation will be March 5, 2-3:00 pm. Service at 3:00 pm

"...weep with those who weep" *Romans 12:15*

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

Vicki Rapley for the death of her brother, Coleman Gains, on Sunday, February 20, 2022

There are thank you cards on the bulletin board from

Anita Shearer

Janis Waldon

The family of Shirley Turner

(Bill's new address is posted)

"I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,"

Philemon 1:4

Welcome Back!

Kyle, Amanda, and McKinley Faneuf have talked with our elders and have placed their membership with the SFA family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer David Williams
 Devo John McShane
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Sunday, March 6, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "The Foolish Man"
Matthew 7:26-27

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Casey Paulin
 Mission Report

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) David Deal
 Greeters Bingle
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Kyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Kyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/Prayer Kyle Bingle
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Greeters Stewart

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Devo Nigel St. Bernard
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

March

5 - Teachers' Workshop, 9-3pm

8 - SFA Men's breakfast, 8:30am at Fred's

13 - Daylight Savings

19 - Secret Sister

Reveal, 10am

19 - Men's breakfast, 9a

Orange St.

March

22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm
 Joinery, meet at bldg

27-30 - Spring Gospel Meeting

April

3 - Potvin baby shower

3 - fellowship in-service

10 - Elders/deacons mtg

16 - Men's breakfast

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb 13 \$6,282.00

Feb 20 \$6,082.00

Feb 27 \$5,500.00

Contribution Average \$6,495.89

Weekly budget \$7,663.43

Have you ever had your soul completely wrung out to the point that you are emotionally spent? I know we all have been there at one point or another. Sometimes it comes with a loved one's death. Other times, it may be a rebellious child or a wayward friend causing sorrow. Maybe it's a consequence of a sin for which you have repented. Perhaps it is a betrayal so deep that you can hardly breathe.

I think back on the times in my life when my legs have been knocked out from under me. A lot of gut-wrenching soul searching has happened from that position. When we are forced to our knees, what do we do once we are there? Do we look at circumstances and say, "why me?" or do we thank God for His comfort and guidance? Furthermore, can we feel anticipation and hopeful expectation at what

God will create from the ashes (Romans 8:28)?

Do we feel joy for the glory God will receive in the face of our trials?

We cannot allow our circumstances to control our outlooks. We must have the resolve to let God's Word control our hearts (Psalm 119:10-12)! We know the things we do and say flow from the heart (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:34). So we must ask, what are we storing up in our hearts (Deuteronomy 6:5-6)?

Let's pray that it's God's Word so that when it spills over, others can see his love when we are at our lowest.

You are invited to our Spring Gospel Meeting March 27 – 30, 2022

GROWING TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY



Sunday morning Bible class, 9:30 am

"For When for the Time Ye Ought but Not"

Sunday morning sermon, 10:30 am

"Spiritual Growth is a Choice"

-- FELLOWSHIP MEAL --

Sunday evening sermon, 6:00 pm

"Stairway to Spiritual Maturity"

Monday night, 7:00 pm

"Without Faith, Growth is Impossible"

Tuesday night, 7:00pm

"Freedom for Growth"

Wednesday night, 7:00 pm

"Grow in Grace and Knowledge"

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**The secret things
belong to the Lord our
God, but the things
that are revealed
belong to us and to
our children forever**

Deuteronomy 29:29



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