



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 10 March 9, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

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.

You are invited to a

Spring Gospel Meeting

hosted by the

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

March 7 – 10, 2021

Islam in Christ's Eyes

A study of the origins of Islam and the Christian response

Sunday, March 7 – 9:30 am (Bible class hour)

The Quran or the Bible?

Sunday, March 7 – 10:30 am (Sermon in worship)

I am an Arab, and I am a Christian

Sunday, March 7 – 6:00 pm (Sermon in worship)

Abraham, Muhammad, and the

Golden Butterfly

Monday, March 8 – 7:00 pm

Evolution

Tuesday, March 9 – 7:00 pm

Islam Myth Buster

Wednesday, March 10 – 7:00 pm

For We Do Not Wrestle



Wissam Al-Aethawi
Dearborn, MI



Live stream will be available



South Florida Avenue church of Christ channel

The Ten Commandments of Social Media

by Hiram Kemp

In the last week's article, we looked at five commandments Christians should keep in mind when using social media. Social media should not be viewed as a negative thing just because some of its users may use it negatively. We can use social media in a good and God-honoring way if we use biblical wisdom and avoid certain pitfalls (Prov. 9:6). In this week's article, let us notice the final five social media commandments to keep in mind as we use it.

Commandment #6: Thou Shall Not Lie (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)

Lying has always been wrong and has always been condemned by God (cf. Lev. 19:11). However, even some of God's most faithful children have struggled with telling the truth on occasion (Gen. 12:10-20, 20:1-18, 26:6-33). When we are online, we can present ourselves as something we are not. Furthermore, we may be tempted to say things that just simply are not true. However, as Christians, we should be committed to being truth speakers, whether we are online or in-person because we have crucified the old man of sin along with his dishonest practices (Col. 3:9). Also, we should be careful about things that we share and make sure that we are not promoting false information or dishonest information. We must be cautious and check to be sure that something is factual before we share it or pass it along as factual when it may not be (1 Thess. 5:21). Christians have God's approval, and therefore, there is no one left for us to impress. We do not have to lie or pretend like we have things that we do not have or have been to places we have not been. Let us be truthful on social media and keep in mind, "a lie is a lie, no matter how small" (cf. Rev. 21:8).

Commandment #7: Thou Shall Redeem the Time (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5)

For all of the good that social media can be used for, I think anyone who has used it for any amount of time would agree that it can be a great time waster. As Christians, we know that our time is short (Psa. 89:47). We need to redeem or make the best use of the time that God has given to us (Eph. 5:16) and not allow our social media use to crowd out time for prayer, Bible study, or fellowship with Christians (Psa. 1:2; Heb. 10:24-25). We also must be sure that our interaction with social media does not rob us of quality time with our spouse, children, or friends. People in our lives should not have to communicate with our screens. A neighbor who is nearby is better than a brother who is far away (Prov. 27:10). Social media can be good for relaxation, laughs, engagement with distant friends and relatives, but if it becomes an obsession, we must reel it in, refusing to be mastered by anyone or anything other than Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:12). We should remember there is nothing wrong with being bored. We do not have to fill every moment of our lives with content, but rather learn to be still and know that God is God (Psa. 46:10). Use social media from time to time, but do not let it consume you. Let's all do better about not living through our screens and being better stewards of the borrowed time given to us.

Commandment #8: Thou Shall Be Humble (1 Peter 5:6)

God is attracted to the humble and repulsed by the proud (James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:6). Confidence is not a negative thing, but we must abstain from pride (Prov. 16:18). We can get to the point on social media where we are willing to do anything for "likes" or "loves". Jesus described Himself as meek and lowly in heart, and we should emulate his spirit (Matt. 11:29). Let us not use social media to elevate ourselves as better than others or more spiritual than others. Self-righteousness is both unattractive and uninviting. We should shine our light, but we can do so without turning others away because of our haughtiness (James 4:10). Social media sometimes presents itself as a platform for the braggers and boasters, but Christians do not have to give in to this. Humility must characterize us as God's people, even on social media.

(continued on page 4)

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

What was the Rich Man's Name?

In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus tells the story about the rich man and Lazarus. Have you ever wondered why Jesus doesn't give us the rich man's name? The rich man enjoyed the best of life on earth, while Lazarus had to settle for the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. I doubt many people knew Lazarus when he was alive, but when he died, Scripture says, he "was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom." He was taken to a place of paradise and rest. Jesus said the rich man was in "torments in Hades." I am sure that the rich man had many friends and many people knew his name when he was alive, but in eternity, no one cared to know his name. But we know Lazarus's name. Many people want to make a name for themselves in this life. Maybe they want to make a lot of money and get famous. What is better is that your name is known in heaven (Luke 10:20).

Senior Saints by John McShane

Today I am thinking about the word *trust*. One definition of trust is "A firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something." It is easy to trust in the things that you can see, such as the sun coming up each day and setting every night. In today's world, many things are talked about that we wonder if we should trust or not. Many people are asking us to take them at their word and to trust that what they are saying is the absolute truth. As Christians, we know that there is One whose word we can always trust. The classic verse regarding trust in the Bible is found in Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." There are 39 references to trust in the Psalms alone, whether referring to trusting in God and His word or not trusting in riches or things of this world. It is a lot easier to place our trust in those who we know that put their trust in our God.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt
 Chuck Wyatt
 Adeline Hine
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Cieara Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Joyce Williams
 Sharon Roy
 Katrina Greene

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Jim Turner
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford
 Jim Edmonson
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Carol Edmonson
 Wayne Shearer
 Ingrid Stewart
 Melody Baxter
 Geny Johnson
 Margaret Coone
 George Davis
 Ray Nashick
 Edward Atkins

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

RESPONSES

Wayne Shearer requests prayers for strength; to be a better example to his family, the church, and everyone that he comes into contact with; and to be forgiven for not standing up for the Lord when he should have.

Johnny Singh requests prayers for all the FSOP students to do well with their assignments and workload.

Thank you

There is a note from the **FSOP students** on the bulletin board.

Daylight Savings

Begins
 March 14,
 2021



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - the Selection of Directors

To comply with state regulations, an annual meeting and selection of directors must be conducted each year. This will be done immediately following morning worship service, March 14, 2021. The following nominees have been made: David Anderson (chairman); George French (vice-chairman); Brian Kenyon (treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominee's willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Wissam Al-Aethawi
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard

Sunday, March 14, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "The Days of Noah"

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Ready, Aim, Fire"

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) David Deal
 Greeters Bingle
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Lou Van Allen
 Lord's Table Jimmy Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Olivia Smith
 P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Andre Medley
 Lord's Table Jimmy Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Next Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting is March 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Ian Enamorado
 Devo Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

To side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.
 Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 21 \$6,918.00
 Feb. 28 \$6,804.00
 Mar. 7 \$7,337.65
Contribution Average \$7,216.23

I love reading the New Testament!

I'm the blind person wanting to see, the hungry follower waiting for bread, the sick woman needing to be made whole, and the disciple learning at the feet of her Master.

Jesus went everywhere with a mission: teach the gospel of His kingdom (Matthew 4:23; 9:35). As I walk with Jesus through the pages, the antagonists walk right alongside us. They question the truth and His words. They call Him horrible things like Beelzebub and a demon (Matthew 12:24). They laugh at Him before He raises a little girl from the dead (Matthew 9:24). Even His own brothers mock Him (John 7:3-5). It's heartbreaking!

I have to remember that if I'm going to faithfully imitate Him (1 Corinthians 11:1), then I, too, will be followed by those same antagonists (Ephesians 6:12). It surely would be easy to drop my cross, especially those times when I cry out to the Lord (Matthew 27:46), but I must carry it to the end (Luke 9:23-24)!

Until then, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.' "
Romans 1:16-17

The Ten Commandments of Social Media

(continued from page 2)

Commandment #9: Thou Shall Assume the Best of Others (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

We do not know everything about people just because we are "social media friends" with them. This means that we must give them the benefit of the doubt and assume the best of others as often as we can, for as long as we can. We must not be naïve or foolish, but let us not be quick to jump to conclusions. We tend to think our educated guesses about others and their motives are 100% accurate, but we probably have been wrong more than we have been correct. Look for the good in others. Do not judge people by one mistake or by what we think a post or a "like" suggests (Matthew 7:1-5). We should try to really get to know people, especially other Christians before we formulate an opinion about who they are and what they stand for. Give the benefit of the doubt because one day you will need it, too.

Commandment #10: Thou Shall Do All to the Glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)

No matter what we find ourselves doing in life, we should do it to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). All of life is not worship, but all of life is to be lived as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). These principles are given to help guide our use of social media in a wise and Christ-like fashion. However, if we can keep before us the goal to glorify God, we will be wiser in all of our endeavors. Does this comment or post bring glory to God? Will this harm my influence or effectiveness? Will this cause division? Is this true? These are the types of questions we should be asking as we engage on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. (Colossians 3:17). The glorification of God is the goal of the Christian, even on social media!

You do not have to use social media to go to heaven. However, one's use of social media may keep them out of heaven (2 Corinthians 5:10). Let us be Christians in every area of our lives. May we be guided by the Word of God in everything we do. Social media seems like it will be around for a long time. If we choose to use it, let us do so like God's people.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"NOW THE PURPOSE
OF THE COMMANDMENT
IS LOVE FROM A PURE
HEART, FROM A GOOD
CONSCIENCE, AND FROM
SINCERE FAITH"**

1 TIMOTHY 1:5