



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

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Bobby Sheumaker

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Vince Daugherty

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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

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since 1969

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Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

What Does the Lord Require? (Micah 6:1-8)

Vince Daugherty

Do we ever had times in our life when we know what the right answer is, but somehow have over-complicated things to the point we fail to do what is right? I feel like I do it often. What about when it comes to spiritual matters? Paul exhorted the Jews of His day that righteousness could be found. It was not far from their grasp. “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ Or ‘who will descend into the abyss?’” (Romans 10:6, 7). Paul said, “The word is near to you, in your mouth, in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach)” (Romans 10:8). The Lord has always demonstrated His righteousness towards us (proven by His actions; and reported/reminded by the prophets). It is impossible to bring a charge against the Almighty (though men sometimes try). Seemingly because of God’s goodness towards us, He could require most anything and everything from you and me. However, Micah gives a very simple answer to what the Lord requires (simple, but not easy): “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you—but to do justly, To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

God's Goodness (Micah 6:1-5)

God stated His case before Israel, “The Lord has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel. O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me.” Stinging and strong words God brings to His people. Why should He not? Micah prophesied in the years before the Assyrian and Babylonian captivity. They had corrupted pure worship and adherence to the Law of Moses, and seemingly had no care about rampant corruption and rebellion. The way in which Israel behaved towards God was such an affront it would seem somehow God had deserved their bad behavior. However, when God rolled back the video, He had done nothing deserving of such a rebellion. He had always been good to His people. (1) “I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage” (6:4); and (2) “O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him?” (6:5). While Israel squabbled and complained in the valley below, Balak had hired Balaam to curse the Israelites. However, every time he tried, God would only allow his words to be prophetic words of blessings. Both examples are but a taste of the Lord’s goodness. Micah shares God’s case to Israel, “That you may know the righteousness of the Lord” (v. 5).

God is not only good to His people, but His righteousness is a model to be imitated. It should make it easier for us to love God back, because He first loved us. Even when we were far from deserving God loved us so much that He made a plan for salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. What then ought to be our response, but to love Him in return? We ought to reciprocate that same goodness back to God.

What Should Man Offer? (Micah 6:6-7)

Seemingly the ideas of reciprocity are so ingrained in us that when we receive something from someone, we have the urge to pay them back in kind. But when we consider how good God has been, what should man offer in return? “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousands rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression?” The answer is a hypothetical ponderance, but when we consider what our offer should be it seems nothing should be off the table, even our first born. In the ancient world child sacrifice was very common in ritual sacrifice to the gods. There is even an example of the testing of Abraham with his promised son Isaac. Literally the answer is no, God does not require child sacrifice (see Gen. 22). Before we think in terms of sacrifice, God would first desire that no sacrifice would have to be made at all. When Saul disobeyed the Lord’s commands, he promised to make a great sacrifice to which Samuel responded, “Has the Lord great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice” (I Sam. 15:22). Solomon says, “To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice” (Prov. 21:3). Hosea says, “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” It is not God’s desire to live one way during the week, offer sacrifices on Sundays, and expect that God will accept our offering. It is the same in every generation.

What does the Lord Require? (Micah 6:8)

God’s great love and goodness towards us is clearly evident. We ought to long to show that same love and goodness back to Him. What is it that He requires? “He has shown you what is good; And what does the Lord require of you—But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God.” How do these scenarios fit into Micah’s exhortation? ‘Preacher, I know I have not been doing right, but it’s easier to ask for forgiveness than to do right’. It does not fit. ‘Preacher, I know I have messed up, but I’ll make up for it with a big fat check that I will put in the plate, that will make up for it right?’ Wrong! God has shown you what is good. It is not a mystery. He does not leave it beyond our grasp to know how to be pleasing to God. Deuteronomy 29:29 is an often-abused passage of Scripture. People will quote, “the secret things belong to the Lord...”, but they fail to state the next line, “but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” God is beyond a complete comprehension, that is why He is God and I am a man. God has given us enough in His natural world, and revealed word that we have to own what we are required to own. We cannot claim his commandments are too mysterious (Deut. 30:11), too lofty (30:12) or too far beyond us (30:13). “But the word is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you can do it” (30:14). You know You know what the right pathway forward is, not saying it will be easy, but it is simple. Make your humble walk with God, one step at a time.

**God Has The Only
Eternal, Unfathomable
Mind, Yet Mankind
Can And Is
Encouraged
To Read God's Mind!**

1 Corinthians 2:12-16
Ephesians 3:2-5
Philippians 2:5

Join Us for Bible Classes! Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45). It is impossible for our faith to outgrow our knowledge of God's word (Rom. 10:17). Come and grow spiritually with us!

Cradle Roll (behind tech booth)

Sundays: Rene" (Bible basics)
Wednesdays: Jagie (Bible basics)

2-3 Year-Old (Room 18)

Sundays: Tiffany (EHT)
Wednesdays: Nicole (EHT)

4-5 Year-Old (Room 7)

Sundays: Michelle(EHT)
Wednesdays: Marissa (EHT)

Elementary (Room 17)

Sundays: Kathy (EHT)
Wednesdays: Becky (EHT)

Teenage (Room 19)

Sundays: Josh (EHT)
Wednesdays: Vince (Ezra/Nehemiah)

Adult (Auditorium)

Sundays: Vince (Acts 14-28)
Wednesday: Brian (Revelation)

First Principles Class (Fellowship Room, any aged adults)

Wednesdays Only: Rick

PRAYER LIST

Current Jeanelle Thrower is recovering from a procedure on her back
Continual: 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) Kathy Nester(health); David Anderson (hand surgery)

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French
Extended family and Friends: prayer requests are emailed each week.

Please help us keep these lists updated by informing the office of known changes in status.

Ladies Days in our area:

April 15- Eagle Lake church of Christ
 April 15- Beville Road church of Christ

Please let the office know if you are interested in going to these so we can RSVP as soon as possible. These events are great opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth!

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

Gospel Meeting

Central Church of Christ
 Clearwater, FL
 Theme: Reigniting the Fire
 Speaker: Allen Webster
 (author and editor of House to House Publication)
 April 2-6, 2023
 Sun. Friends and Family Day

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **April 30, 2023.**

If you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the building fund. It will be collected by the elders.

Save the Date:

June 4-7, 2023

Vacation Bible School
S. Florida Ave church of Christ
Theme: Give Me Oil in My Lamp



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Announcements.....Rick Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer.....Peyton Willcut
 Devo.....David Anderson
 PrayerJarred Spivey

Sunday, April 2, 2023

10:30 A.M.

"The Vinedressers" (Matt, 21:33-45)
 Vince Daugherty

6:00 P.M.

The Unmistakable Christ (Matt. 11:2-6)
 Rick Kenyon

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....David Williams
 Song Leader (**both services**).....Andre Medley
 Announcements.....Bobby Sheumaker
 Scripture reading/Prayer...Josh Estridge
 Lord'sTable (**both**).....Nigel St. Bernard
 Closing Prayer.....Wayne Shearer
 Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Deal
 GreetersDix Family
 Attendance cards (**both**)Colby/Klark
 Sound Booth (**both**).....Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderAndre Medley
 Scripture reading/PrayerJosh Potvin
 Closing PrayerBrian Williams
 Greeters PM.....Estridge Family

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Announcements.....T. Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer.....Tucker Sweeney
 DevotionalVince Daugherty
 PrayerJoseph Faulk

Upcoming Events 2023

April

- 1 Egg Hunt
- 1 Ladies Day Kissimmee church of Christ
- 2-6 Gospel Meeting Central church of Christ, Clearwater
- 7-9 Lads to Leaders Convention
- 9 Elders and Deacons Meeting
- 11 FSOP Ladies class w/Susan Stearsman
- 15 Ladies Day Beville Rd church of Christ
- 15 Ladies Day Eagle Lake church of Christ
- 16 Lads to Leaders Banquet (Team 1)

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 12..... \$5,214.00
 Mar. 19.....\$5,486.00
 Mar. 26.....\$5,942.00
Contribution Average.....\$7,053.44
Weekly budget \$7,410.00

Lesson from I Timothy (Pt. 3)

"Honoring Widows" (I Timothy 5:3-16)

There is a special place in God's heart for widows (see James 1:27). We too ought to have a special place in our hearts for widows. There are a few different types of widows described in I Timothy 5. One is a widow who has children. Those children are to care for her. Young people, how do you treat your mother? It had better be with the utmost respect. She gave birth to you, fed you, clothed you, etc. Practice now showing your mother respect, helping her with chores around the house, and learning skills that she can teach you. If you have regular chores, see if you can do them before she even asks you. If you do, she may faint at such a young man/woman she is raising :) In practicing these things now, you are preparing for some day when she may need more help in her older years. If you have prepared by respecting and treating her as you should, you will be ready when that time comes. This brings us to the second type of widow, one who is a faithful member but has no one to take care of her. This is a woman who the church ought to support. Young people, this is an opportunity to practice for someday when your own parents will be older. You can start by getting to know the names and faces of such widows. Write them a card; plan a visit with your parents; invite them to share a meal. Ask them questions about their life and what it was like when they were young. You will find even though their lives were different in some ways, yours may be quite similar-VD

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

Women of the Word

Ingrid Stewart

My Cup Runs Over

Lord, thank you for filling up my cup
Thank you for the joy that I have in my heart
Despite moments of sadness, despair, or hopelessness
You give me moments that uplift my spirit
Family and friends who remind me of life's blessings
May I always remember to give you thanks and praises
Your goodness and mercies are more than I can count
Fill me up so that I can share with others
Let me find joy in doing your will

Psalm 32:11

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Psalm 97: 12

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

WWCC
Youth Retreat
"OLD SKOOL"
JEREMIAH 6:16

May 5th-7th
Register by April 3rd to receive a t-shirt
Register at
tinyurl.com/2023youthretreat
Contact Chad Tagtow
863-412-0022

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35



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