



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 12 March 29, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

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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

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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

part 2

Joshua Cantrell

Refuse To Faint

On occasions in life, there will be those who will convince us that we need to quit. Often it is because they have already quit. Some of these people will be family, friends, even members who have fallen away from the Lord's church. We should not for anyone neglect our relationship with God. Many Christians will walk off the battlefield of life and will persuade us to follow them.

When we read the Bible, we must not forget that God depicts us as soldiers. Paul says, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Tim. 2:3-4). It is this concept that moves many people away from Christianity. Thus, it causes many to quit, or to become faint. What the Bible demands is contrary to what the world believes. Christians are people who believe, and Christianity is the religion that demands we believe.

When we are a soldier of Jesus Christ, we can feel the pressures from the world to quit. Unfortunately, the reason many do not feel the pressure is that they gave up a long time ago. As recorded in Acts 17, Paul is in a place where idols are everywhere. Paul stands in that city and talks about their gods (Acts 17:16-31). Christianity demands sacrifice from the world so we can be pleasing to God. Therefore, Christians must believe the Bible is the all-inspired Word of God. Peter says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For this prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:20-21). All scripture is breathed out by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Christians believe this Gospel is the good news that can save our souls (Rom. 1:14-17). We are convicted about what we believe because of what God has done for us. Only Christians can say, "I have been in sin, and now I am not because of the blood of Jesus."

Have We Counted The Cost?

Christ says to the crowd that followed him on that day, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, his mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:26). Each of us must make a decision to be convicted by the doctrine of Christ. Why do many faint in their approach to Christianity? It is evident that many do not understand what they are signing up for.

Not long after the establishment of the church on Pentecost (Acts 2), persecution took place for those who followed Jesus. Luke records, "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection of the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide" (Acts 4:1-3).

Imagine if these men would have folded up and quit preaching Jesus. Many that day would not have obeyed the Gospel (Acts 4:4). When we stand up for Christ, others will take notice. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived they were unlearned ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). Even if our lives are threatened, we must stand up for Christ. Christ would say "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men,

him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 1:32-33).

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Mt. 5:11-12). Do we count it a blessing to suffer for the cause of Christ? People are going to hate us because we are Christians. Many first-century lives were threatened because of their dedication to Christ.

Standing Up For Truth

Counting the cost also means we have to stand up for the truth of the Gospel. Christianity is not for those who will compromise their beliefs to fit in with the world. Being a Christian means we stand up for what is right, even if others do not. Jesus says, “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it” (Lk. 14:28). Our Lord is asking each of us to count the cost of discipleship.

We will lose relationships, business opportunities, and many other things in life. God will reward us if we are faithful to him and endure to the end. Peter says, “Yet if any man suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but glorify God on this behalf” (1 Pet. 4:16).

We cannot be friends with the world and with God as well (Mt. 6:24). Eventually, a time is going to come when we must decide. Have we counted the cost?

The time to count the cost is not when the opportunity is right in front of us. We must be predetermined to follow Christ no matter what comes our way.

Be Thou Faithful Unto Death

As John writes to the church at Smyrna (Rev. 2:9-10), he gives a grand exhortation to them. The word Smyrna means bitter, void. The city knew about the church and wanted them to suffer for what they believed. They teach us that no matter what happens in life, we have to keep moving forward. Yes, it will be hard. Yes, it will push us to our limits. We must remember that God is with us at all times (Jos. 1:5).

This group of Christians shows us that we must count the cost, even if our lives are threatened. While Smyrna was under attack, they never lost sight of who they were serving. We have to press on (Phil. 3:14-15).

Faith in Christ allows us to endure to the very end. It allows us to be set for the race that is before us (Heb. 12:1-2). John says, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer, behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

YOUTH GROUP

Vince Daugherty

You Know Better Than That

(Luke 10:13-16)

In Luke 9 Jesus was rejected by a certain Samaritan city and two of His disciples asked, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them." Jesus rebuked them for being way too harsh, "the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (v. 51-56). However, in the next chapter (Luke 10), Jesus pronounced strong woes against "Chorazin", "Bethsaida", and "Capernaum". Jesus said, "it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you", and those cities, "who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades" (Luke 10:13-16). These were strong condemnation for Jewish cities. Why was Jesus so lenient to the Samaritan town and so harsh to Jewish cities? There were differences. 1) The Jewish cities had their sick healed and the kingdom preached yet they failed to respond. 2) The Jews should have understood better the Old Testament Scriptures and be expecting the message that the disciples brought. It is similar to this; Have you ever gotten in trouble from your parents for something. Typically parents will get upset if you do something bad or wrong, but they will be even more upset if you should have known better and still did something you were not supposed to do. Jesus made a distinction just like parents do. As children we are to honor our parents (Eph. 6:1), especially when it comes to things we absolutely know are wrong, otherwise we can expect greater punishment.

3 Questions Before You Speak

Rick Kenyon

Words are powerful... and sometimes dangerous (Jas. 2:8).

Before we respond with a sharp tongue, let's temper our words with a sharper mind and loving heart with these three questions:

Will it come from a pure heart? "...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt. 12:34). It doesn't matter what we say if we are saying it from a place of anger, wrath, and malice. If you cannot say it with a pure heart, then don't.

Is it true beyond a shadow of a doubt? "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). Too often things that are heard or thought to be true are repeated without verification. If there is something that we feel the need to say, but cannot be sure of its truthfulness, it would be in the best interest of truth to not say it or pass it along (see Prov. 18:17).

Is it edifying to the hearer(s)? It may be true; it may be said with good intentions, but it can still tear down and destroy those who hear it. We should only speak "that which is good to the use of edifying" (Eph. 4:29). Everything we speak should convey a message of love... even when we must correct those who are out of line. If what we say does not build up our fellow man, then let it not be said.

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
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - health
 Toney Wilson - health
 Charles Paulin - health
 Fran Gabaldon - post-op

PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane - moving
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Brian Smith - heart
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems
 Anita Shearer - health
 Bill Long - health
 Declan Potvin - post op

(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

THANK YOU FOR VISITING

Chris Bittle Gene & Brenda Boles
 Geoffrey & Lorulette Browne Elliot & Avis Glasgow
 Kathleen Rohrbach Tony Waldon Jr.

Updates & Prayer requests

Annett Phillip is in Lakeland Regional Hospital.
 Malcolm Share, Nikki's brother is in the hospital with dengue fever.



We need your empty cereal boxes for VBS! Please give them to Vince Daugherty.

Pantry Request:

GAS CARDS or cash towards cards

Please give them to Rick Kenyon
 Thank you!



Remember!

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Prayer time for evangelism efforts
 Sundays at 5:45 pm - Pew packers in auditorium
 Wednesdays at 10:00 am - Ladies' class
 Thursdays at 7:00 pm - Ladies Bible class

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Rick Kenyon
 Devo Gospel Meeting
 Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

Sunday, April 3, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Josh Cantrell
 "Jesus Cleanses a Leper"
 Matthew 8:1-4

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Josh Cantrell
 "Excuses That Will Not Be Excused"
 Luke 14:18-20

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Sheumaker
 Greeters Brunson
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Kyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/Prayer Lou Van Allen
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer David Anderson

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Kyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/Prayer Andre Medley
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard
 Greeters Stewart

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer David Williams
 Devo Kyle Faneuf
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

April

3 - Potvin baby shower
 3 - fellowship in-service
 9 - Elders/deacons mtg
 9 - Easter Egg hunt
 10 - Elders/deacons mtg
 12 - SFA Men's breakfast
 12 - FSOP Ladies class

April

16 - Men's breakfast, 9a
 Eagle Lake
 22 - Fiesta Friday
 26 - Ladies' Night Out

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar 13 \$7,179.00
 Mar 20 \$6,079.00
 Mar 27 \$7,359.00
 Contribution Average \$6,872.33
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

To help answer that question, let's look at a few situations that can determine our current maturity level in Christ.

We should be mature enough that no one has to beg us to attend worship services if we are not sick.

Hebrews 10:24-25

We should be mature enough not to think we are doing the elders and ministers a favor when we attend worship service or bible study. **Philippians 2:12**

We should be mature enough to receive rebuke, exhortation, or correction without getting angry.

Hebrews 3:13; Proverbs 15:10

We should be mature enough to do right even if everyone else is doing wrong. **Romans 6:2, 6, 12, 23**

We should be mature enough to forgive others if we want forgiveness from God. **Matthew 6:12**

We should be mature enough to love as God has commanded. **Romans 10:12, 1 John 3:11, 1 John 4:11**

We should be mature enough to study God's word to see if we are in the faith.

2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Corinthians 13:5

Remember to obtain and maintain spiritual maturity; we need to desire, meditate on, and live by God's word. (**Job 23: 11-12, Psalm 51:6, Psalm 119:105, Romans 1:16-17, 1 Peter 2:2**) Let us allow God to have his way with us.

Where He leads, we will follow.



Mark your calendar **JUNE 5 – 8**



the B-I-B-L-E that's the book for me

SFA VBS 2022

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**For the word of the Lord
is right, And all His work
is done in truth. He loves
righteousness and justice;
The earth is full of the
goodness of the Lord.**

Psalm 33:4-5

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested



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