



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 14 April 4, 2023

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

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

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Find us on

YouTube & Facebook

HOME OF

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

“Read My Mind!”

Brian R. Kenyon

How often has one spouse said to another, “Do you expect me to read your mind?” when that spouse failed to do something the other spouse expected him or her to do? On the other hand, how many times has one spouse automatically done something good the other spouse had reason to expect but did not have to ask? What is the difference? In the former case, the spouses may not have known each other well enough and/or at least were not on the same train of thought when the situation occurred that left one spouse disappointed in the non-action of the other. In the latter case, the two spouses knew each other well and were on the same train of thought when the situation occurred. There are some important applications of this to our being in a right relationship with the Lord. God has the only eternal, unfathomable mind, yet we can and are expected to know it!

The Bible Is God's Mind Revealed

Paul declared that what he and his coworkers received from the Holy Spirit and then taught was the very mind of Christ:

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ... ¹⁶For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:12-16)

This would apply also to the other human writers through whom the Spirit revealed God's will (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Paul also indicated what he wrote was the mind of God revealed. Only God knew ahead of time exactly how His will would be fulfilled. Paul wrote:

If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: (Ephesians 3:2-5)

Scripture is the very product of God's mind, “breathed out” to the writers of the Bible. Paul declared, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Paul explicitly commanded, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). While this was more referencing Christ's attitude (Philippians 2:3-4), it is still the Bible that reveals it!

God's Mind Is Available for Our Reading

We are blessed to have a God who has revealed His mind to us so we can know how to please Him, both now and forever. Let us consider two important pieces of God's mind, which when followed will please God.

Salvation

God “desires all men [people] to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). We can read God’s mind when it comes to knowing what we must do to be saved. We must first have faith based on what God’s mind has revealed in the Bible (Romans 10:17). Merely believing that Jesus existed will not save, for even the demons believed that (James 2:19). Our faith must lead us to repent of sins. Jesus said, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Repentance means to “turn.” We must turn from serving self and sin to serving God and righteousness (Acts 17:30-31). Merely regretting we sin is not true repentance, for even Judas regretted he betrayed Jesus but never turned all the way to true repentance (Matthew 27:3). Repentance must lead us to confess our faith in Jesus. Paul exhorted, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Timothy 2:19). Confessing faith in Christ is how a person lets others know he or she is committing to Christ. However, conversion does not stop at confessing Jesus as the Christ, for even demons acknowledged, “Jesus, You Son of God” (Matthew 8:28-29). Biblical baptism, which is predicated on believing in Christ, repenting of sin, and confessing Jesus as the Christ, is the exact point at which a person outside of Christ is saved and added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:36-38, 41, 47 cf. Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21). If you have not done these things in your life, we would love to assist you and/or study further with you!

Worship

God is seeking true worshipers (John 4:23). We can read God's mind when it comes to knowing how God wants to be worshiped. Jesus’ identifying “true worshipers” means there can also be false worshipers (John 4:23). Jesus also said in the same context that “true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth ... God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24). The “in spirit” part has to do with the worshiper’s attitude of love, reverence, and humility toward God. It is possible to do the “outward acts” of worship but, because the attitude is not right, the worship be unacceptable to God (Isaiah 1:11-15; Matthew 15:8). The “in truth” part has to do with the God-authorized avenues, or acts, of worship. It is impossible for a person to worship God acceptably when a he or she is ignorant of His will (John 4:21-22; Acts 17:23). Likewise, it is impossible for a person to worship God acceptably by coming up with his or her own avenues, or acts, of worship (Colossians 2:23; Matthew 15:9). No matter how sincere the person, he or she has no authority to worship in a way God does not approve (Leviticus 10:1-2; Colossians 3:17). Fortunately, we can read God’s mind and know that a true worship assembly involves singing psalms, hymn, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), praying (Acts 2:42), preaching/teaching God’s word (Acts 20:7), and on Sunday, the first day of the week, there is partaking of communion, or the Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7), and financially contributing to the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). If you would like to know more about God-authorized worship, please let us know and we would love to read and study God’s mind on the subject with you.

Conclusion

Our goal must be to please God through loving Him and our neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; Colossians 1:10). The only way we can do this is to do what He expects, from a heart of love, reverence, and humility. We can have no doubt as to what God expects because we can read His mind!

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)

Elementary (Room 17)

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

2-3 Year-Old (Room 18)

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

Teenage (Room 19)

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

4-5 Year-Old (Room 7)

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

Adult (Auditorium)

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

First Principles Class (Fellowship Room, any aged adults)

Wednesdays: Rick

PRAYER LIST

Current **Bea Pratt's** pacemaker surgery went well but they having trouble controlling her blood pressure now. **Jim Turner** is home from the hospital but goes to the doctor next week to determine if he needs a pacemaker. **Judah Daugherty, Pat Chisholm and Davion Russell** were all home sick last Sunday. **Eve Morelock** is recovering from Covid. **Jeanelle Thrower** is doing better following her procedure.

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.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
 Thank you so much for all your prayers and cards. They have been appreciated so much for my son and me and our family.
 We are thankful and happy to report that our grandson's wife had her CT scan and it showed that she is cancer free now. She has a couple very tiny spots left but they do not believe it is cancer. They will check it in 3 months.
 Also, thankful that our son-in-law is responding well to physical therapy from his stroke. Please continue to pray for them.
 God bless you all!
 Ron and Judy Ford

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



Classes for all ages!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

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

Sunday, April 9, 2023

10:30 A.M

The Resurrected Body(Eph. 2:4-7)
 Rick Kenyon

6:00 P.M.

Unrealized Battlegrounds (2 Cor. 10:3-4)
 Brian Kenyon

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Frank Hamby
 Song Leader (**both services**).....Kyle Faneuf
 Announcements.....Tyler Anderson
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Paul Sweeney
 Lord'sTable (**both**).....Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer.....Jeff Stewart
 Open/Close bldg (**both**).....Jason Hendrix
 GreetersDaughertys
 Attendance cards (**both**).....Sawyer/Ellis
 Sound Booth (**both**).....Brian Williams

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderKyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/PrayerKyle Bingle
 Closing PrayerRoberson Louissaint
 Greeters PM.....Brian and Jagie Kenyon

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Announcements.....B. Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer.....Andre Medley
 DevotionalKyle Faneuf
 PrayerDavid Deal

Upcoming Events 2023

April

- 7-9 Lads to Leaders Convention
- 9 Elders and Deacons Meeting
- 11 FSOP Ladies class w/Susan Stearsman
- 15 Youth Group Movie Night @ CMX Lakeside Village at 5:30 PM
- 15 Ladies Day Beville Rd. church of Christ
- 15 Ladies Day Eagle Lake church of Christ
- 22 Young Adult Fellowship Night @Daugherty's house. 7:00 PM

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 19.....	\$5,486.00
Mar. 26.....	\$5,942.00
Apr. 2	\$6,777.00
Contribution Average.....	\$6,549.62
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

Recipe for Salvation

I enjoy making a cake! The smell as it is baking, the taste, the appearance of a freshly baked cake that turns out perfectly is so satisfying! We all know that in order to achieve that final product it takes a plan-- a recipe to follow! The same can be true when it comes to "making" a Christian. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus tells his disciples to go "make disciples". How do you make disciples? He tells us in the following verses "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." Just as we must follow Grandma's cookie recipe exactly as the recipe card is written in order to get a cookie that tastes exactly like the one she used to make, we too must follow Christ's "recipe" for salvation exactly as He tells us in scripture in order to receive the desired outcome-- a Christian! The recipe he left us must include all the ingredients:

- Hear the word: Romans 10:17
- Believe the gospel: John 8:24
- Repent of Sins: Luke 13:3-5
- Confess faith in Jesus: Matthew 10:32-33
- Be baptized into Christ: Acts 2:38
- Continue to live faithful: 2 Timothy 3:14

The Holy Scriptures contain ALL the necessary ingredients to produce one who is pleasing to God. May we all follow the recipe God gave us so that our lives will be a "sweet smelling aroma" to Him (2 Corinthians 2:15) and when we stand before Him on that last great day He will be satisfied with the final product and tells us "well done good and faithful servant, enter thou in" (Matthew 25:23).

Youth Spot

LESSONS FROM 1 TIMOTHY

"The Bossman "(I Timothy 6:1,2)

While we do not live in the same culture as Paul's day, if we better understand Paul's instructions about the relationship servants have to masters, we can better honor God. Maybe you are not a physical slave, but you may be starting out in your first job. Or, maybe its just a kid's relationship with mom and dad who expect you to obey their voices like a boss. 1) treat masters [bossman] with honor; "so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed." You ought to give your very best in whatever work, job, chores, etc. you are doing. Your work ethic is a reflection on other Christians and God Himself. 2) If the bossman is a Christian, your work is for your beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, so do a good job. Not only are you a reflection on you, but on the one for whom you work. I would especially not want another Christian to think any less of me.

- VD

YWCC
Youth Retreat
"OLD SKOOL"
JEREMIAH 6:16

May 5th-7th
 Register by April 3rd to receive a t-shirt
 Register at tingurl.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

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3



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