



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 13 April 5, 2022

## 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](mailto: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](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## HOME OF

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.

## **Disguises Of The Devil**

Joshua Cantrell

He has wreaked havoc amongst God's people from his introduction into the world. John's description of him should put all of us on high alert, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (Jn. 8:44, NASB).

With all we benefit from by being children of God, the Devil is not comfortable with our relationship with God. In scripture, he is called many things: the prince of darkness, the tempter (Mt. 4:3), the evil one (Mt. 13:19), the father of lies (Jn. 8:44), adversary (1 Pet. 5:8), a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8), Satan (Job. 1:6), the devil (Jn. 8:44). He desires to have each of us quit God and our relationship with him.

The Devil is the sworn enemy of God. We often speak of rivals, but God has none. To compare the two implies there is something comparable. With rivals, we watch the game because we don't know who's going to win. The Devil is an angel who rebelled against God (2 Pet. 2:4). An individual has to be foolish to go against God. The Devil is not worthy of fear and reverence, but "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). Satan has no other purpose than to deceive us. He twists and distorts what is true, for he is a liar (Jn. 8:44). Someone has stated, "If I were to tempt you, you would know it. If I were to accuse you, you wouldn't know it. If I were to deceive you, you wouldn't know it. The power of Satan is in the lie. If you remove the lie you remove the power."

## **How The Devil Accuses God**

Satan's greatest desire is to keep us away from God. He will seek for us to deny God's existence and lie about God's character. God repeatedly affirms his love for us, "At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the LORD, the people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jer. 31:1-3).

Satan's counter is, "God does not love you. Look at all the problems you have." Each of us will face difficulty (2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:16). It is part of life. What Satan fails to tell us is that if we have a relationship with God and depend on Him, He helps us through those problems. We don't have to shoulder or solve problems on our own. God can give us the wisdom and strength to get through those problems (Jas. 1:5). John says, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you; not as the world gives do I give you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (Jn. 14:27).

Satan wants to bend the truth and convince us not to believe the Bible. Satan is after our faith. He understands that if he can get our faith, he can get us. He wants us to wallow in our pain and suffering, eventually leading to our spiritual death. He is "subtle" (Gen. 3:1), which means to be crafty, sly, sensible, or cunning. Moses records, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed has God said, you shall not eat from any tree of the garden?"

## **Jesus Warns Us About The Devil**

The Hebrews writer states, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him" (Heb. 11:6). Jesus on one occasion tells his disciples that one of them will betray him. Interestingly, the conversation did not last long. Their concern

is “who is going to be the greatest in the kingdom?” Jesus turns his attention to Peter and says, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat: but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. But he said to Him, Lord, With you I am ready to go both to prison and to death” (Lk. 22:31-33).

The text reveals to us that Satan is after each of us. Satan wants to put us in a position that will cause us not to trust God. His disguises are impressive, and we must be on alert for them. Paul urges us to be aware of the “wiles or schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:10-17). Satan is a strategic being. He is tactful and moves with an agenda. Satan will often look for characteristics of an individual and use those for his purpose. As recorded in Genesis 3, The serpent was a crafty being before the devil used him.

The way Satan destroys churches, homes, and relationships is that he looks for characteristics a person already possesses. Judas betrayed Jesus (Jn. 13). The Bible states, “Satan entered Judas.” John 12:6 reveals to us that Judas was already covetousness. Before Satan got to Judas, he was a greedy individual. Satan only used what was already in Judas’ heart. Paul says, “Don’t give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:27).

## Disguises Of The Devil

What Satan most often attacks is God’s word. Satan will always counter with false teaching what the Lord teaches (cf. Jn. 12:48; Jn. 14:6; 2 Cor. 5:10). Satan will agree with much of what God says but will add subtle twists, such as “God’s not exclusive, he’s inclusive.” Concerning Christ's judgment, “Christ’s message is one of salvation, not condemnation.” People are fond of saying “My God doesn’t judge.” If your God doesn't judge, you have the wrong God. In the first seven chapters of the Bible, God judges three times.

In the Book of Job, Satan’s charge to God is that Job only serves Him because of what He has given him (Job. 1:8-10). We learn that Satan is not eternal (Job. 1:6). We learn that he is not omnipresent (Job. 1:7). Satan is not omnipotent (Job. 1:12). There is one reason Satan did not start out touching Job: God did not give him permission. The reason Job is alive at the end is because God wants him alive.

Because of Jesus and what he has done, Satan is defeated. Satan desires to have us, but our Lord protects us. Satan is defeated, and we have the victory (1 Cor. 15:57).

### Youth Group

*Vince Daugherty*

Communication is a major part of any relationship. That is also true with our relationship with God. When the disciples saw Jesus praying, they said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). First, Jesus gave the disciples this model, "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins. For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation. But deliver us from the evil one" (v. 2-4). The prayer 1) honors our Creator and heavenly Father 2) keeps His kingdom squarely in focus 3) acknowledges our dependence on God 4) understands how forgiveness works 5) requests future help and guidance in our everyday walk.

Further, Jesus tells a parable about being persistent (v. 5-8). God answers our prayers in three possible ways, yes/no/not right now. If we do not receive what we desire when we desire it, God may be saying, "wait on My timing," or "maybe I have something better I want you to desire." As we continue to persist in prayer, we can see better from God's perspective. It may mean we keep praying or change what we are praying. Jesus continues by saying, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be open to you" (v. 9). The emphasis is to continue to seek, ask and knock. We have parents who try to give us the very best for our success. How much greater will our "heavenly Father give... to those who ask Him!"

For practice, memorize the Lord's model prayer, constantly pray the prayer every morning and see how your life is affected. I do not give this as a formula to impress God, but as a practice to develop a consistent and substantive prayer life.

### Memories

*Wayne Shearer*

I'm sitting on my patio thinking of the years I have been a part of the church my Jesus established and thanking Him for them, some great and some not so great. The best memories I have are me coming back to my Lord after leaving Him for some 20 years, then my wife Anita coming back. I remember being able to baptize both my parents after 10 years of Bible study. I remember taking all of my grandchildren to Bible camp and taking them on vacations throughout the years and so many more, too numerous to recall. I guess what I am trying to say is that the best memories I have are the ones that involved my Lord, and I thank Him for those. I pray the Lord will bless me with more memories of the great ones so when the not-so-great ones arise in my mind, I can push them out, knowing the great always outweighs the bad. Thank you, Jesus, for what you have allowed me to experience in your kingdom.

Psalm 40:9-11 NKJV

I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly. Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.

# 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  
 Annette Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Jeanelle Thrower - health  
 Toney Wilson - health  
 Darlene Thompson - bad cold

## 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  
 Bill Long - health  
 Wayne Shearer - health  
 Charles Paulin - health

(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



*Nellie Anderson has a new address.  
 It is posted on the board.  
 Visitors are welcomed!*

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

There are cards on the bulletin board from  
*John & Linda McShane*  
*Gordon & Anna Bockert*

*thank you*

**Remember!**

Stay up-to-date with all the activities, gospel meetings, additional prayer times, fellowship gatherings, evangelism opportunities, and so much more. Flyers and sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board



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

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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

### Sunday, April 10, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Josh Cantrell  
 He Marveled  
 Matthew 8:5-13

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Josh Cantrell  
 His Mother Stood Nearby  
 John 19:25-27

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... David Anderson  
 Greeters ..... Bingle  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Terrance Dindy Jr.  
 Announcements ..... Tyler Anderson  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
 Lord's Table ..... Wayne Shearer  
 Closing Prayer ..... George Davis

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen  
 Lord's Table ..... Wayne Shearer  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Greeters ..... N. Williams

### Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Andre Medley  
 Devo ..... Stacey Paulin  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

## Upcoming Events

### April

9 - Easter Egg hunt  
 10 - Elders/deacons mtg  
 10-13 - Gospel mtg at Beville Rd.  
 12 - SFA Men's breakfast  
 12 - FSOP Ladies class  
 15-17 - L2L, Orlando  
 16 - Men's breakfast, 9a Eagle Lake

### April

22 - Fiesta Friday, 6p Andersons' home  
 24 - Fellowship in-service  
 26 - Ladies' Night Out  
 29-May 1 - WWCC Youth Retreat, Tagtow

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar 20 ..... \$6,079.00  
 Mar 27 ..... \$7,359.00  
 Apr 3 ..... \$6,358.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$6,665.93  
 Weekly budget ..... \$7,663.43

"You're such a hospitable hostess!" Aren't these lovely words to hear? Over the years, I have heard many lessons written by women, for women, about being hospitable. We can turn to passages such as Romans 12:13 and Hebrews 13:2 to see what God commands. "Show hospitality without grumbling" 1 Peter 4:9 says. One need not look too hard to see that God expects us to be hospitable to all (Hebrews 13:2). In the lessons I mentioned before, I often heard some variation of the question, "Do you have a heart for hospitality?" I would like to rephrase this question to ask "Is your heart hospitable?" Think about it. If your heart was someone's home, would they be comfortable there? Because truly, people live in our hearts- whether it is because we love them or because we can't stand them. They take up square footage just by our forming impressions and having interactions with them. Would the people in your life feel comfortable knowing the feelings you possess about them? Does your heart contain thoughts of joy, love, and benevolence (Gal. 5: 22-23; Phlp. 4:8) OR does it harbor thoughts of malice, envy, and bitterness toward anyone (Eph. 4:30-32; 1 Pet. 2:1)? Does GOD, the author of life, LOVE itself (1 John 4:8), feel comfortable knowing your thoughts about His beloved and prized creation (Psalm 139: 23,24)? 2 Corinthians 13:5- Let's check our hearts.

## Rejoicing in hope

Romans 12:12

It all started, by God's providence, with a coffee shop Bible study.

We rejoice with the angels that Rene (pronounced "Rainy"), bottom row in the middle, was baptized into Christ! He studied at various times with FSOP personnel for a semester and a half putting into practice this semester's personal evangelism class. We thank God that He sent His Son to save those who follow His word (Acts 2:37-38; 22:16; Hebrews 5:9)!

### Rene Godbout (4/1/22)

*"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."*  
1Corinthians 1:6



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### *South Florida Avenue* **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

**Romans 15:13**



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