



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 14 April 6, 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

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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.

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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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.

Great Bible Students in the Bible

by Hiram Kemp

If we desire to be spiritually strong and healthy, regular Bible study is something that we cannot go without. Spending time in the Word of God will help us to not only come to know God better but to live the kinds of lives that God requires of us. The inspired message of God was given to the prophets and apostles, and it has been preserved for our benefit (Eph. 3:3-5). We are to desire the sincere milk of the word so we can grow (1 Pet. 2:2).

The Bible is of no value to us until we study its contents and allow its teachings to become a part of us. We would greatly benefit if we found good role models to follow in the area of Bible study. If we could see the habits and practices of those who faithfully and diligently studied the word and incorporate them into our own lives, we would be more capable and well-rounded students of the Bible. The Bible not only tells us it is from God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and that we should meditate on its contents (Psa. 1:2), the Bible also provides us with good examples of Bible students within its pages. Let us learn some valuable lessons from several great Bible students in the Bible.

Joshua: A Lifelong Student of the Word (Joshua 1:8)

When Moses died after leading God's people for forty years, Joshua took his place (Josh. 1:1-4; cf. Deut. 31:1-8). As Joshua was entering his position as the new leader of Israel, God commanded him to be strong, courageous, and studious. He was told to meditate on the law of the Lord day and night and not to allow the law to depart out of his mouth so that his work would be prosperous (Josh. 1:8). Joshua's success was tied to his relationship with the Word of God. If Joshua kept the Word of God in his heart and obeyed its message, his leadership endeavors would be prosperous (Psa. 1:2-3). Joshua would be assured of God's presence and power as he led Israel into Canaan, fought foreign nations, and organized the Israelites in their new home (Josh. 1:5-7, 1:9).

While we have no recorded instance of Joshua studying the law of God, we know that he did. Joshua's ministry is described as successful (Josh. 24:29-31). All the promises that God made to Israel concerning the promised land were fulfilled in Joshua's days (Josh. 21:43-45). Joshua vowed to serve the Lord no matter who else did or did not follow suit (Josh. 24:15). It is clear that he took God's Words to heart and made meditating on the Word of God his regular practice. The success Joshua enjoyed and the victories Israel experienced during his time as their leader are a direct result of his faithful adherence to God's Law. We will prosper in the work of the Lord to the degree that we do the same (John 14:15, 15:14). From the beginning of our walk with the Lord until the end, we should be meditating on his word and internalizing its message. We should be diligent students, whether we are new Christians or seasoned members.

The Bereans: Daily Students and Fact Checkers

When Paul and Silas came to Berea, they found the synagogue and began preaching and teaching, as it was their custom to do (Acts 17:2, 17:10). The Jews in Berea heard the preaching but did not take Paul's and Silas' word for it. They are described as those who searched the scriptures daily to see if these things were true (Acts 17:11). The Bereans were daily students of the Old Testament (Rom. 15:4). They had their copy of the scriptures opened and were reading for themselves. Furthermore, they were trying to ensure that the things they were learning were true (Prov. 23:23). In our days of fact-checking and fake news, we should learn from the admirable example of the Bereans.

We should not only strive to be daily Bible readers, but we should also listen attentively to sermons and Bible classes and be sure we are being taught the truth, examining everything we hear in light of scripture (1 Thess. 5:21). We should test teachers and their doctrine so we are not deceived (1 Jn. 4:1). The Bereans showed us the importance of regular and rigorous study as they studied to show themselves approved to God (2 Tim. 2:15).

Daniel: A Prophet Reading Prophecy

We must not assume that the prophets were omniscient simply because God revealed select messages to them (2 Pet. 1:20-21). They knew about the things God related to them, but they had to learn other things just like the rest of us (cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-12). The prophets needed to study their Bibles so they could know the God of the Bible. Daniel was a great prophet of God who served in high positions in both the Babylonian and Persian Empires. Many are familiar with his commitment to the dietary laws in Leviticus (Dan. 1:8), his ability to interpret dreams (Dan. 2; Dan. 4), his consistent prayer life that led him to the lion's den (Dan. 6), but Daniel was also a great Bible student. In Daniel 9:1-2, according to what Jeremiah wrote, Daniel realized in the first year of Darius that the captivity of God's people in Babylon was ending, and they were heading back to Jerusalem. Daniel had obviously been reading Jeremiah 25:7-11, where Jeremiah's prophecy is recorded. He realized that God was going to keep His promise and allow the Israelites to return to the Promised Land after seventy years in Babylon. In response to his accurate interpretation of Jeremiah's prophecy, Daniel prays a heartfelt and deep prayer of thanksgiving and penitence on his behalf and behalf of the people. Daniel's Bible study had two great benefits: he was able to lay hold on to God's promise, and he was driven to his knees in prayer.

We should study the Word like Daniel and allow it to refresh our memories concerning God's promises (2 Cor. 1:20).

We must be reminded of what God said He would do and all that He has done (Rom. 8:28). Our faith will increase as our Bible intake increases (Rom. 10:17). Moreover, when Bible study is done properly, it should result in prayer. We should be thanking God, asking for His forgiveness, seeking guidance to apply the message, and asking for courage to apply what we have read (James 1:5-8). Daniel was a prophet, but he was also a student of the prophets. We should adopt his practice of study, proper interpretation of the text, and fervent prayer.

Jesus: Embodying the Word

John describes Jesus as the Word (John 1:1). Jesus is God's message to the world who was clothed in flesh (John 1:14). Although Jesus is divine, He became a human being and was a superb student of the word. We may assume Jesus never had to study because He was omniscient (John 2:24-25), but the Bible depicts Him as interacting with the word. At twelve years old, He was sitting in a Bible study, asking questions and giving amazing answers (Luke 2:46-47, 2:52). The first time we read of Him in the synagogue, He is turning to Isaiah and reading the prophet's message, which He also fulfilled (Luke 4:16-22; cf. Isa. 61:1-3). He responded to each temptation from Satan by quoting the Book of Deuteronomy (Matt. 4:1-11). He died with the Psalms on His lips (Matt. 27:46; Psalms 22:1; Luke 23:46; Psalms 31:5).

Jesus not only embodied the Word in His life, but He frequently had the Word of God on His lips. The Word was hidden in His heart which kept Him from sinning (Psalms 119:11; Heb. 4:15). The only sinless Man who ever lived had a healthy acquaintance with the Word of God. If we would be successful in the fight against sin, we should become regular students of the Word. If Jesus needed the Bible to get through this life, so will we. Let us learn from His example. Let us know the Bible, quote the Bible in times of hardship, and most of all, live out its message (1 Jn. 2:3-5).

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

by Vince Daugherty

You can be known for the places and people you hang around. There are definitely people and places that are not good for you. Associating with certain people or being in a certain place can cause others to judge you negatively. The Bible clearly says in Psalm 1:1, there are some places that we should not be and some people not to be around.

- 1. Walking in the counsel of the ungodly**
- 2. Standing in the path of sinners**
- 3. Sitting in the seat of the scornful**

Senior Saints by John McShane

This week I am looking for those who would like to share a Senior Moment. When Vince shared his lesson with us Sunday night, an idea popped into my head. All seniors have a tidbit that can help others as we go through life, something that should be passed on to the younger generation. Some of us learned the hard way about things that we can help others avoid. Some of us remember little things that we learned in our younger years that were largely forgotten in today's helter-skelter world. After talking with Vince, we have come up with a program called "Senior Moments." During each Lads2Leaders training period, a senior will give a five-minute (or less) presentation on something that you have learned but is not common knowledge but has made life easier or more enjoyable. If you are interested in taking part in this program, please let me know, and you will be put on the schedule. Let's give the term "Senior Moment" new life.

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
 Ciara Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Joyce Williams
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Margaret Coone
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford

Carol Edmonson
 Jim Edmonson
 Jim Turner
 Melody Baxter
 Geny Johnson
 Sharon Roy
 George Davis
 Ray Nashick

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

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

Janis Waldon repents of decisions that she has recently made.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Darlene Thompson will be traveling to Tennessee later this week and will be gone for 3 weeks.

Jim Edmonson's pneumonia has gotten worse. Carol got a call from the rehab letting her know.

Debbie Bush is in LRMC with Covid. She sends her gratitude and love for all the calls and prayers.

Dates to remember

April 11 - Parents' meeting, after morning worship

April 11 - Elders, Deacons, Preachers meeting, 4:00 p.m.

April 13 - Ladies' night out, Fresco's, 6:00 pm

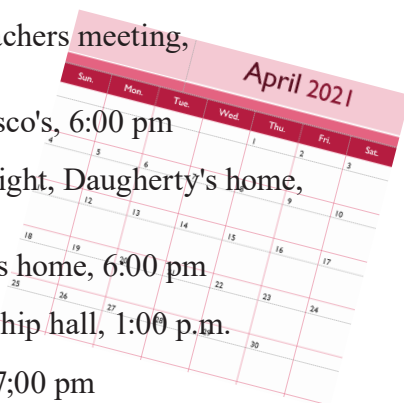
April 17 - Youth Group Game night, Daugherty's home, 6:00 p.m.

April 20 - Taco Tuesday, Kemp's home, 6:00 pm

April 24 - Ladies' Swap, fellowship hall, 1:00 p.m.

April 27 - FSOP Ladies' Class, 7:00 pm

April 30 - May 2 - WWCC, ages 13 and older



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Ian Enamorado
 Devo Johnny Singh
 Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Sunday, April 11, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Ezra's Approach to the Word of God"
 Ezra 7:10

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 Q & A

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Phil Fife
 Greeters J. Williams
 Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

Greeters O. Smith/Thrower
 P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer George Davis

Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting is April 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Matthew Webb
 Devo Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

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, 2020. Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 14 \$6,135.05
Mar. 21 \$7,361.00
Mar. 28 \$9,182.00
Contribution Average \$7,289.81

Before Easter, I envisioned children running around with a basket searching for eggs. This cultural holiday also reminds me of the idiom, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

As I contemplate on what that means, I recognize that spiritually it would be wise to put "all my eggs in one basket." The eggs represent the different struggles I face as a wife, mother, employee and friend. The basket is God's everlasting arms. I can rest assured that if I trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not to my own understanding, acknowledge him in all my ways, the Lord will direct my paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I know the Lord wants us to put ALL of our eggs in the basket because First Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you." He loves us so much that he wants us to bring him every concern, heartache and pain. He also reminds us in Hebrews 13:5, God will never leave us, nor forsake us. How awesome it is to know that we are loved and we serve a God who wants us to lean on and depend on him! God's basket is always safe, always secure, always successful.



FAITHFUL BIBLE STUDENTS IN THE BIBLE

JEREMIAH ATE THE WORD
Jeremiah 15:16

JOB EXALTED THE WORD ABOVE FOOD
Job 23:12

EZRA STUDIED AND PRACTICED IT
Ezra 7:10

JOHN CONSUMED GOD'S MESSAGE
Revelation 10:10

EZRA READ THE WORD CAREFULLY
Nehemiah 8:8

JOSHUA WAS TO MEDITATE ON IT
Joshua 1:8

THE BEREANS STUDIED DAILY
Acts 17:11

JESUS SAID WE NEED IT TO LIVE
Matthew 4:4

LADIES' CLASS

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7pm

What is Truth? Part 2

John 18:38

Teacher: Shenia Brownlow-Dindy



All ladies are invited to join us in person or online. The Live stream will be through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class. If you are not already a member, please request to join the group. If you have questions please contact the Florida School of Preaching at (863) 683-4043.

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Return Service Requested

"SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON EARTH."

COLOSSIANS 3:2