



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 17 April 23, 2024

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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.....6:30 p.m.

## WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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## 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  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## In the World but Not of the World

Brian R. Kenyon

The Lord's prayer found in John 17 occurred a short time before Jesus was betrayed by Judas and His fraudulent "legal proceedings" began. In this prayer, Jesus prayed for Himself (John 17:1-5), for His apostles (John 17:6-19), and for all future disciples, including us (John 17:20-26). Throughout the prayer, Jesus prayed that God would keep, or guard, His apostles (John 17:11, 15) and sanctify them (John 17:17). As part of that desire, Jesus pled with the Father:

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. (John 17:15-19)

The apostles, though living in the world, were not to be of the world (John 17:11, 14-16), just like Jesus, though living in the world (John 1:10), was not part of the world (John 17:14). While we are not "apostles" in the strictest sense of the word (but we are, generally, "sent with a message," Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15), there are principles in this section of Jesus' prayer that apply to us (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

## In the World

There at least three ways the word "world" is used in Scripture. First, the "world" can refer to the created world. God created it to be inhabited (Isa. 45:18). Its boundaries were created very purposefully.

God, who made the world and everything in it ... And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. (Acts 17:24-27)

A major purpose for God's design of this world is so we will find Him (cf. Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20; Acts 14:17)! Second, the "world" can refer to people, "For God so loved

## Thank You, Lord!



By the grace of God, our search for a preacher is over! We are happy to announce **Steven Ford** as our new preacher! More details to follow. Please pray for a smooth transition!

the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). The offer of salvation is for all people, especially portrayed by Peter before Cornelius, that “God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35 cf. Rom. 1:16; Rev. 22:17). Third, the “world” can refer to the arena of the flesh, or worldliness. John warned:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

This kind of worldliness prefers darkness, for “everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (Jn. 3:18-21). For this reason, faithful Christians can expect hatred toward them (1 Jn. 3:13). Jesus confirmed:

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said to you, “A servant is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (John 15:18-20)

No wonder, then, John declared, “Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you” (1 John 3:13)!

Christians have no choice but to live in the “world,” so far as it refers to the place God created for humans to dwell. However, we do have a choice as to being controlled by worldly lusts (cf. Galatians 5:16-26). While living in this world, we must exert the influence God desires, as “the salt of the earth ... the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill ... light ... before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16). God never intended His people to live as monks in a monastery! Rather, Christians must influence the world so the lost can be saved (Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Peter 2:12).

## Not of the World

As Jesus declared, “I am not of the world” (John 17:14), Christians must not be of the world. Paul clearly stated, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2). Members of Christ’s body must not let the world shape their minds, “conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance” (1 Peter 1:14). Instead, Christians must let God’s will shape their minds. When we study God’s word and come face-to-face with the “perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25; 2:12), “we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18)! When Christians are not continually transformed, worldliness will be seen. Paul wrote about the worldliness of the Corinthian church members:

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup>for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal? (1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

Three distinct signs are evident in Christians who are worldly: (1) they are still “babes” in Christ, even though sufficient time has passed where growth should be evident (cf. Hebrews 5:12-13); (2) they are unable to handle “solid food,” which refers to growth beyond the basic principles (cf. Hebrews 5:14; James 1:23-25); and (3) they are full of envy, strife, and division over other people (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

## Conclusion

Faithful Christians are incompatible with worldliness! May we heed the words of Peter, “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God” (1 Peter 4:1-2).

## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Shannon Russell has been sick lately, Patti Van Allen broke her wrist, Jeff Bingle will be having more medical tests soon

**Continual:** Fran Gabaldon (health), Stacey Wilson (health)Debbie Bush (struggles);Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Jim Turner (health)

**Shut-ins:** Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin , Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Sharon Roy

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:** VBS here at S. Florida Ave.  
Saturday June 8, 2024

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griffinroad.churchofchrist.info/

Griffin Rd Church of Christ | Annual Lectureship

The Biblical Value of a Woman.

The Biblical Value of a Daughter  
9:10 AM - 9:50 AM  
Kevin Patterson  
Sebring, FL

The Biblical Value of a Wife  
9:55 AM - 10:35 AM  
Jacques Phanor  
Turks and Caicos Island

The Biblical Value of a Sister  
10:50 AM - 11:30 AM  
Ben Radford  
Poinciana, FL

The Biblical Value of a Mother  
11:35 AM - 12:20 AM  
Rick Kenyan  
Lakeland, FL

APRIL 27, 2024  
9:00 AM-12:30 PM  
Lunch provided at 12:30pm  
2401 FINGER LANE BARTOW, FL 33830  
If you have any questions please call  
Bro. Federick Hicher at 863-712-0909

## BE REAL

(Matthew 23:28)

Weeki Wachee

Youth Retreat

Ages 13-18

May 3rd - 5th

\$50 register by April 17 to  
receive a shirt

Hosted by Orange St. church  
of Christ

**Sympathy:** Our prayers are with the family of Jim Davis (father in law of Brian Kenyon, and grandfather of Rick Kenyon) who passed away last Sunday, April 21

The Lord is near to  
the brokenhearted and  
saves the crushed in  
spirit. (Psalm 34:18)

The Elders would like to meet with each SFA family to hear your ideas, concerns and questions.

They will be at the building on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please call the office or set up a time and day that works best for your family.



IF YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO WILL BE GRADUATING THIS YEAR, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH THEIR INFORMATION SO WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN THE BULLETIN WITH THE OTHER 2024 GRADUATES! WE WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES ON SUNDAY APRIL 28TH FOLLOWING THE EVENING SERVICE.

Scheduled to Serve in April	
Designated Elder	David Anderson
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	
Announcements	Rick Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcut
Sunday, April 28, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Joseph Faulk
"A New Creation In Christ"	
6:00 pm Sermon	Rick Kenyon
"Brethren, Pray for Us" (1 Thess 5:25)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Sweeney's
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (both)	Nigel St Bernard
Closing Prayer	Steve Tydings
Open/Close Building	Jason Hendrix
Attendance Cards	Klark Kenyon
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Mccarter's
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer	David Deal
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Jarred Spivey
Closing Prayer	Lou Van Allen
How We Are Giving	
April 7	\$9,648.00
April 14	\$7,708.75
April 21	\$4,881.50
Contribution Average	\$7,084.23
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$7,410.00</b>

If you cannot serve as  
scheduled, please notify  
Stacey or the office.  
Even if you arrange your  
replacement, please notify  
Stacey or the office. Thanks!

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

**TODAY**, I can complain because the weather is rainy, or....I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

**TODAY**, I can feel sad that I don't have more money, or... I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

**TODAY**, I can grumble about my health, or...I can rejoice that I am alive.

**TODAY**, I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me while I was growing up, or...I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

**TODAY**, I can cry because roses have thorns, or... I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

**TODAY**, I can mourn my lack of friends, or...I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

**TODAY**, I can whine because I have to go to work, or....I can shout for joy that I have a job to do.

**TODAY**, I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework, or...I can feel honored because the Lord has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

**TODAY**, I can bewail the world of sin in which I must live, or...I can thank the Lord for another opportunity to share Jesus with others so that a soul might be saved and the world will be a better place for us to live.

**TODAY**, stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping. What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have. (1 Peter 4:1)

Have a Great Day....unless you have other plans!

To the SFA Family,

We are excited and above all, thankful to God for the opportunity to serve with such a wonderful group of Christians.

As we make preparations to be with you later this summer, we are praying for you all. Please keep us in your prayers as well.

With a sincere love for God and one another, we trust that the future will indeed be bright!

In Christian love,

*Steven, Carlisa, Savannah and Summer Ford*

**Door Knocking Evangelism Campaign**

**May 13-18, 2024**

We will be having a door knocking campaign along with the FSOP Students.

Please make plans to join us in this local mission work.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, 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; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

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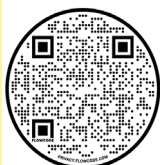
**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"For the LORD will be your confidence,  
And will keep your foot from being  
caught!"**

**Proverbs 3:26**



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