

# The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 71 No. 16 04-24-18

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt  
John McShane

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## 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.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## 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.

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGE

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Paying the 1st Century Preacher In the 21st Century World! April 28, 2018, beginning @ 9 am



with **Kevin Patterson**

Kevin is the preacher for the Sebring Parkway church of Christ. He also has a Bachelors in Business Administration. He will address these subjects from the Bible and practical experience from his work as a preacher and a small business owner!

9:00 am *Devotional*

9:15 am *Financial Pointers for the Preacher*

10:00 am *Financial Pointers for the Church*

10:45 am *Questions & Answers Open Forum*

*A Financial Seminar designed especially for  
elders, preachers, and all those interested in  
church finances!*

— Hosted By —

**South Florida Avenue  
Church of Christ**

**1807 South Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803**



# **"LIBERAL" OR "CONSERVATIVE" ... OR "BIBLICAL"?**

Brian R. Kenyon

Immediately after Jesus promised to build His church, He told Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Mt. 16:19). Lest someone misunderstand this verse to indicate Peter had some kind of supremacy in the church, note that all the apostles were given this instruction about "binding" and "loosing" (Mt. 18:18). Most English translations do not clearly express the true force of the verb tense and meaning. The New American Standard does well by translating, "... whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." As this translation indicates, the apostles were only to "bind" and "loose" what God had already "bound" and "loosed." It has never been the case that the apostles "bound" and "loosed," then God ratified it in heaven. Rather, no apostle, no preacher, no elder, no deacon, no anyone has the right to "bind" or "loose" anything that God has not already "bound" or "loosed"! May God grant us wisdom in properly ascertaining what God has truly bound and loosed!

## **TERMINOLOGY CHALLENGE**

When it comes to religion, the terms "liberal" and "conservative" can take on various meanings, depending on the context. For example, in late nineteenth/early twentieth century theological circles, a "liberal" referred to one who held to the view of inspiration that says the Bible merely contains the word of God; thus, some of the Bible is not actually the word of God. That is, within the Bible one can find the word of God through reflection and meditation. This view, of course, is false because it would mean humans subjectively decide which parts of the Bible are actually the words of God and which parts are not. It would also be different for each individual, depending on his "reflection and meditation."

When the term "liberal" or "conservative" is used in our religious culture, different things may come to mind. For example, those who labeled themselves "conservative" (while others may refer to them "non-institutional" or "anti") might think a congregation like the one of which we are members is "liberal" because we support orphans from the church treasury. However, some church members might reserve the term "liberal" only for those who allow such things as mechanical instruments in worship or women preachers in mixed assemblies. This can sometimes be confusing, but there is a better way in using Bible terminology to describe both extremes.

## **"CONSERVATIVE"?**

Sometimes what people call "conservatism" (or "non-institutionalism" or "anti-ism") may simply be defined as that which binds where God has loosed. This, of course, is sinful. Examples of this can be found in the New Testament. Paul spoke of those who were "forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth," and he referred to such teachings as "deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy" (1 Tim. 4:1-3). Any dietary distinctions of the old law have been done away in Christ (Lev. 11:4 cf. Acts 10:9-16; Col. 2:13-14). This, of course, does not mean a person has to eat "meat" (KJV). People are acceptable to God whether they eat only vegetables or include meat in their diets (Rom. 14:1-4). While there are occasions that call for the abstinence of meat (1 Cor. 8:13), to say it is always sinful to eat meat is sin because it binds what God has loosed. Same also with marriage. There are occasions when it is best for Scripturally eligible couples not to marry (such as during the "present distress" of 1 Cor. 7:26, 28). However, even during those occasions, Paul said it was not sinful to marry (1 Cor. 7:2, 9, 28, 36). Some religions forbid marriage for Scripturally eligible couples, which, of course, is sinful because it is binding what God has loosed! There are some today who have taken their judgments on such matters as supporting missionaries or orphans and bind them as if they were God's exclusive pattern. However, if God has not bound those judgements, those who do so as a test of fellowship, sinfully bind where God has loosed.

## **"LIBERAL"?**

Sometimes what people call "liberalism" may simply be defined as that which loosens what God has bound. This also, of course, is sinful. This is exactly what Satan convinced Eve of doing in the Garden. *(continued on page 4)*

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Denise Phillips was home sick. Also remember in prayer Faith West, Ginny Hamby, Jim Turner, Brenda Mask, Wanda Bruno, Margaret Coone and Carol Eason.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Evelyn Wyatt and Sharon Edler.

**Others:** Parker Hodson (Vicky Rapley's son-in-law), Warren Lane and Ray Parker (friends of the Kirkland's), Gerald Cox (relative of the Kirkland's), Lynn Stevens, Jack Pinckert, Chrissi Fuesner, Bob McAnally, Rea Rice, Doris Smith, Nellie Anderson, Joyce Stearsman, Paul Shearer, (grandson of the Shearer's) and James & Ellen Shearer, (parents of Wayne Shearer).

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday April 28th:** Financial Seminar (Paying the 1st Century Preacher in the 21st Century), here at South Florida Ave. at 9:00 a.m.

**April 27th-29th:** Weeki Wachee Youth Retreat. The theme is "Be Ready." See slide or flyer for more info.

**Saturday April 28th:** Private Art night for all ladies' at PicassoZ at 7:00 p.m. See Kelcey Grimes for more details.

**Sunday April 29th:** Our Monthly Fellowship Meal following our morning worship. Our afternoon service will follow. We will recognize birthdays and anniversaries for the month of April as well as our Lads to Leaders participants. Wayne Shearer's team (members who's last name start with L-P) will have set-up and clean-up. Bowling outing to follow for those interested.

**Sunday May 6th:** Fellowship In-Service after evening services

## Response

Sharon Mathis-Washington responded to the invitation and asked for the prayers of the congregation on Sunday morning. Please keep her in your prayers.

## Thank You's

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, visits and prayers for me and my foot surgery. I am so blessed to be a part of a wonderful christian family. Thanks again, Nicole Dix

A very heartfelt thanks to the young adults that turned out on Saturday for the first car wash out reach program. It was a big success. The enthusiasm and fellowship displayed by the young adults brought great credit upon themselves and the church. One person they reached out to attended Sunday morning services!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Shelby Mills on the birth of Thomas Daniel Martin born on 4/18/18. The proud grandparents are Craig & Tammie Mills, proud great-grandmother is Darlene Thompson.

## Visitors

Lamarian Wilson, David & Susan Stearsman and boys, George & Marion Beals, Hao Hoang, Sylvia Higgins, Rick & Stephanie Kenyon and children, Ted Okolichany and children, George French and T'Jean Tomlinson.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### May

Frank Hamby ..... **Table** ..... Fred Strickland  
Kyle Faneuf..... **Assist** ..... Dennis McCarter

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... David Williams  
**Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Opening Prayer**..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Simpson  
**Sound Booth**..... C.J. Grimes

1:15 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Opening Prayer**..... Kyle Bingle  
**Sermon**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Alex Parramore  
**Sound Booth**..... C.J. Grimes  
**Greeters**..... Tyler & Jessica Anderson  
**Att. Cards**..... Willcutt boy's  
**Open & Close Building** ..... David Anderson

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

**Song Leader**..... Casey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kenny French

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911*

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... Frank Hamby  
**Prayer** ..... Wayne Shearer

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader**..... Chaz Hine  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Williams  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tim Croson  
**Sound Booth**..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Alex Parramore  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Sound Booth**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Greeters** ..... Darlene/Brenda  
**Att. Cards**..... Sawyer/Ian  
**Open & Close Building** ..... C.J. Grimes

**Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

**Song Leader**..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Williams  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

April	1.....	\$6,396.79
April	8.....	\$4,670.80
April	15.....	\$5,365.87
April	22.....	\$5,772.60
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....		<b>\$5,723.35</b>
<b>2018 Weekly Budget</b> .....		<b>\$4,887.98</b>

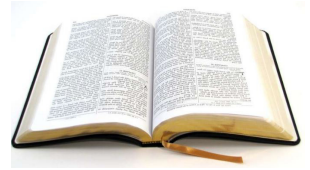


## **"LIBERAL" OR "CONSERVATIVE" ... OR "BIBLICAL"?** (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Indeed, Satan changed God's "you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:17) into "You will not surely die" (Gen. 3:4), and even before he added that "not," he faked an expression of surprise and changed God's "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat" (Gen. 2:16) into "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden" (Gen. 3:1). In the end, Satan convinced Eve to loose what God had bound by her eating the fruit (Gen. 3:6). Loosening where God has bound can also be summarized in Second John 9, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God." Generally, the verb "transgress" means to go beyond the boundaries God has set. Certainly, this includes compromising His commands. When people loose God's authority to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to Him (Eph. 5:19) into using mechanical instruments in worship, they have loosed what God has bound! When people loosen God's mandate, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man" (1 Tim. 2:12 cf. 1 Cor. 14:37) into allowing women preachers, they have loosened what God has bound!

### **LET'S JUST BE "BIBLICAL"**

There is a better way! God does not want His people to loose what He has bound nor to bind what He has loosed! If we just stick to the premise God told the apostles, "Assuredly, (continued below)



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*1807 South Florida Avenue*  
*Lakeland, FL 33803-2653*

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

**Building Godly Leaders for Tomorrow**  
Let's show support and appreciation for our young people on April 29 following a.m. worship service!  
L2L They & their mentors have worked very hard!

We are planning a bowling trip for our youth (and others interested) following our April 29 fellowship meal. Stay tuned for further details!



If you or someone from your immediate family is graduating this year, please get a picture to the office by May 1, 2018, along with the name of the school, degree (if applicable), and future plans. We will include them in a special bulletin!

(continued from above) I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Mt. 18:18), and only bind and loose as God directs, we will not be "liberal" nor "conservative," but simply Biblical! Can we get any better than simply following God's word, without addition or subtraction? ❤️ *Brian*

**BE  
Ready**  
**1 Peter 3:15**

Weeki Wachee  
Youth Retreat  
**April 27-29, 2018**

Please register by April 22

**Special Thanks** to the "senior saints" and the young people who worked together last Saturday in the car washing service and outreach project. Visitors attended the assembly as a result!