

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. 70 No. 017 04-25-17

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Bobby Sheumaker

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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.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

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.

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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Two Florida School of Preaching Students Graduating on May 7, 2017

Since the Florida School of Preaching's inception in 1969, the South Florida Avenue church of Christ has been a vital part of its existence. From the very first eldership (consisting of M. B. Chambers, W. E. Dampier, Charlie Deal, and Lester J. Whitlow) up to the present eldership, the congregation here as sacrificed, exercised patience, and encouraged the Lord's work of training preachers. Without your help, the school simply could not exist as it has all these years. Thanks to this congregation and other local churches of Christ and individual Christians who financially support the school, students have never been charged tuition and the school has always had great facilities in which to operate. At the end of each semester, we rejoice in the Lord and thank Him, as Paul would say to the Philippians, "for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:5). To God be the glory!



Dylan Johns came to us immediately after high school. He and his mom were active members with the Kissimmee church of Christ before moving to Brooksville. While a student, Dylan lived in the house graciously provided by the Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale. He served as a summer intern with the Spring Hill (Florida) church of Christ. While in FSOP, he has dated Kasey, from the Kissimmee church of Christ, They are planning on getting married on May 20. He will begin preaching for the Kissimmee church of Christ on Sunday, May 15.



Scott Anthony Pfetscher came to us from the Towne Acres church of Christ in Muncie, Indiana. He was pursuing a BA degree in youth ministry at Anderson University (which he completed in 2015) when he was converted through the influence of his girlfriend, Hannah (now his wife), and through Bible study with Brian Howard (an FSOP graduate serving as the local preacher). While in school, Scott has worked with the Eagle Lake church of Christ. He will begin preaching full-time for the Somerset (Ohio) church of Christ shortly after graduation.

PAUL'S CHARGE TO PREACHERS

Brian R. Kenyon

As Paul was in prison, “already being poured out as a drink offering” (2 Tim. 4:6), he wrote to the young evangelist, Timothy:

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Tim. 4:1-2)

What Timothy has learned from God’s word, whether by his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15) or by Paul himself (2 Tim. 2:2), must be continuously taught. Preaching and teaching the word of God is serious (2 Tim. 4:1). The term “charge [solemnly charge, NAS]” is translated from a word that means to declare solemnly and emphatically; charge under solemn oath (1 Tim. 5:1; 2 Tim. 2:14). The urgency of preaching is conveyed in the fact that there will be a final judgment one day. We see funerals and hear about people dying all the time. How many of these departed souls are ready for eternity? Very few are prepared (Mt. 7:13-14)! Jesus will be our Judge (Jn. 5:25-29), and His word will be the standard by which we will be judged (Jn. 12:48). There is also a sense in which people judge themselves based upon their reaction to the will of God (cf. Acts 13:44-46).

Preaching and teaching the word must be a continuous endeavor (2 Tim. 4:2). Paul answers four questions about the kind of preaching that pleases God.

WHAT MUST BE PREACHED? Paul’s answer is “the word” (2 Tim. 4:2a), not human philosophy. The word “preach” is translated from an original word that means to proclaim, make known (Col. 1:23; 1 Thes. 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:16). This is the kind of proclaiming that would be done publicly, like for example, what a town crier would do. There is no other message anywhere that has the power to save like the Gospel (cf. Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 11:4).

WHEN MUST THE WORD BE PREACHED? Any time is appropriate (2 Tim. 4:2b). The term “be ready [be instant, KJV; be urgent, ASV]” carries the idea of always being on call, or standing by (same word used in 2 Tim. 4:6). “In season” is from a word that takes the word for time and adds a prefix to it that means good, or well. It refers to when the time is right or convenient (cf. Mk. 14:11). “Out of season” takes that same word for time and adds a negating prefix, similar to the English “un-.” It means when the time is not convenient. Marshal Keeble has been credited with saying of this verse, “... when they want to hear it and when they don’t want to hear it!” Though preachers must exercise wisdom in their approach, there is never a wrong time to teach God’s word.

WHAT MUST THE PREACHED WORD DO? Paul mentions three things. First, preaching is to “convince [reprove, KJV].” This is translated from the same word Jesus used when He asked, “Which of you convicts [convinceth, KJV] Me of sin?” (Jn. 8:46). It is commonly defined in the lexicons as to show someone his fault or error, convince someone of his fault or error; show something up for what it is; prove guilty, condemn; rebuke, reprove (Jn. 16:8; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:9). Second, preaching is to “rebuke,” which means to command, order; rebuke; scold (Mt. 16:22; 19:13; Jude 9). Third, preaching must “exhort,” which means to encourage, speak words of encouragement; console, comfort, cheer up (1 Tim. 5:1; 6:2; Tit. 2:15). Some may speak of these as two negatives and one positive, but really all three are positive. If “convincing” and “rebuking” keep a soul on the “strait and narrow,” what could be more positive than that?

WHAT MUST ACCOMPANY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD? Paul mentions two things here. First, preaching requires “longsuffering [great patience, NAS; complete patience, ESV].” This term is translated from a word that combines a prefix that means large and a word meaning anger or wrath. The idea is that it takes a long time to reach the point of anger. In simple terms, it means patience (same word in 2 Tim. 3:10; Rom. 2:4; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 3:15). Second, preaching requires “teaching [doctrine, KJV; instruction, NAS].” This refers to the content of what is taught, teaching; instruction (Rom. 16:17; Titus 1:9; 2 Jn. 9-10). There is only one doctrine from God. The plural form “doctrines” only occurs in four verses, all of which speak of false, man-made doctrines (Mt. 15:9; Mk. 7:7; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 13:9).

May we always appreciate and promote the importance God has placed on preaching and the sending forth of preachers. “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?” (Rom. 10:14-15).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ron Ford was home not feeling well. Continue to keep in prayer Ginny Hamby, Jim Turner, Kenny French, and Margaret Coone.

Relatives: Tonya Mathis, Sarah Blevins, Owen Lewis, Bobby Cole, Preston Craft and Evie McCormack.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Elizabeth Tubbs, Robin Pack and Jack Pinckert.

Upcoming Events

Sunday April 30th: Fellowship In-Service before evening service at 5:00 p.m.

May 5th-7th: Weeki Wachee Youth Retreat. Registration forms are in the foyer. Please see flyer and slide for more information.

Sunday May 7th: Florida School of Preaching Graduation. There will be a fellowship meal following the evening service. There will be two graduates, please bring enough food for visitors.

Tuesday May 9th: Elders/Deacons Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday May 20th: Men's Breakfast at the North Lakeland Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

Thank You

Thank you so much to all who contributed to the Easter basket project for the women's shelter! The kids loved their baskets so much! So thankful to be a part of such a generous and caring Christian family.

Rene' Bingle

Visitors

Victor Travis and Alexis, Barbara Farmer and Amanda Patterson.

- SELECTION OF DIRECTORS -

To comply with state regulations, an annual meeting and selection of directors must be conducted each year. This will be done immediately following the morning worship service May 07, 2017. The following nominations have been made: David Anderson (Chairman); George French (Vice-Chairman); Charles Paulin (Treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (Secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominees willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Frank Hamby **Table** Fred Strickland
Chaz Hine **Assist** Bobby Simpson

Sunday, April 30, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Bobby Simpson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Casey Paulin

Greeters Tyler & Jessica Anderson
Att. Cards Willcut boy's
Open & Close Building David Anderson

Wed. May 3, 2017

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Kenny French

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005

Sunday, May 7, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Greeters The Frenchs
Att. Cards Quadarius and Ian
Open & Close Building Jim Turner

Wed. May 10, 2017

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

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 02	\$5,970.10
Apr. 09	\$5,764.00
Apr. 16	\$5,435.00
Apr. 23	\$5,273.51
Contribution Average	\$5,431.48
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

Good Worship; Bad Worship

Although there is no explicit statement in the New Testament that says “worship is ...,” we can know what worship is in at least two ways: by the vocabulary used to describe it and by its approved or unapproved examples. Jesus’ classic statement on worship is that “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). The context of John 4 indicates that “in spirit” refers to the human spirit. Acceptable worship must be characterized by the appropriate attitude. The acts, or avenues, of worship are not true worship in and of themselves without the person’s “inner-man” being involved. The proper involvement of the inner person requires an attitude of humility, a desire to please God, and a cooperative spirit to conform to His will. Only when the proper attitude is present may one worship God acceptably (Isa. 1:11-15). However, “in spirit” is only half the equation. “In truth” means that worship is to be done according to God’s word (John 7:17; 2 John 4). Only in accordance with divine authority can worship be acceptable (Colossians 3:17). If worship lacks the proper attitude and/or the proper authority, it cannot be true worship and, therefore, must be false worship. The New Testament contains at least three examples of unacceptable worship. First, echoing the sentiments of Isaiah, Jesus said of His hypocritical opponents, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship *(continued below)*



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

Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8-9). In the context, Jesus condemns those who are pitting one commandment of God against another by implying that they do not have to honor their parents since they are “contributing to the Lord’s work” instead (Matthew 15:1-9). Such an attitude renders their worship unacceptable to God! Second, there are those who worship ignorantly. Paul told some “men of Athens” that they were worshipping at “an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD,” and that they were worshipping a god “without knowing [ignorantly worship, KJV]” (Acts 17:22-23). Even Jesus told the woman at the well, “You worship what you do not know” (John 4:22). True worship is not an accident. We must know the God whom we worship and how He expects us to worship Him if our worship is to be acceptable! Third, some worship by a self-imposed system. After detailing aspects of “regulations” some were imposing, Paul wrote, “These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion” (Colossians 2:23). “Self-imposed religion [will worship, KJV; self-made religion, ESV]” refers to self-made standards of religion, but who are we to dictate to God how He should be worshiped? It is God who must authorize our worship if it is to be acceptable. Let’s worship God in spirit and in truth! ❤️ *Brian*

