



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 17 April 25, 2023

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

The Story of Eutychus

Vince Daugherty

Growing up, I remember my parents telling me the story of Eutychus. I even have a vague memory of a song of Eutychus falling out of a window and Paul coming down and picking him up. Yet through all the remembrance I have of Eutychus, I have not found many lessons, principles, Bible studies, or sermons written about Eutychus. I do know from experience the more I overlook something in Scripture, the more gold is waiting to be dug. I am thankful to a certain secretary for sharing some notes she had taken from a study that helped me spark a renewed interest in the account of Eutychus.

The Narrative

There is much to be learned simply from the snapshot that Luke gives in Acts 20:7-12 about how, when, and where the first disciples gathered to worship the risen Lord. Verse 7 says that they gathered on the first day of the week. This would have been Sunday, the “Lord’s Day” on account of the resurrection. From the previous verse we find that though Paul was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost (20:16), he decided to stay seven days to be with them on “the first day of the week” (v. 7). One of the stated purposes for the gathering was to “break bread” (v. 7). This is significant in a sense greater than partaking of an ordinary meal (since Paul was their for seven days, surely they would have broken bread at meal times). The “breaking of bread” is a synecdoche for partaking of the Lord’s Supper. Here we see an example of the disciples taking this Lord’s Supper. We know that Jesus commanded the disciples to eat of the unleavened bread and to drink the fruit of the vine (Matt. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:23-26). We also have an approved example of the body of believers coming together for the express purpose “to break bread” (taking the Lord’s Supper). One such young Christian who partook of the Supper was Eutychus no doubt.

Again, though Paul was in a hurry, he was zealous for preaching and teaching. Luke says that he “continued his message till midnight” (v. 7). For the Roman world there was no significance of Sunday in their week. It was a normal day of work. We cannot know all the details from Luke’s account of when Paul preached, but some early Christian accounts say that the disciples would meet very early on Sundays to worship and then go to secular work at the conclusion. Either Paul started very early in the day and preached a marathon (which is possible, see Restoration Movement sermons) or Eutychus may have come after his work and was gathering with the brethren in the third-story house. Luke gives some explanation of the situation as to why Eutychus found himself falling out of the window: “there were many lamps in the upper room,” Paul was “continuing his speech till midnight,” and “Eutychus was sinking into a deep sleep” while sitting “in a window” of “third story” (v. 7, 8). I cannot help to think Luke had a little bit of humor with this account because no doubt there were other stories he could have told from Paul’s travels. I guess, I am not the only preacher to go overtime just a little. It seems Eutychus is the first example (though probably not approved, especially when sitting in a third-story window) of someone sleeping in church service.

It is humorous only because the conclusion of the narrative finds a positive ending. Paul raced down to pick up Eutychus from the ground. Although the young man was dead, Paul, “fell on him and embracing him said, ‘do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him’” (v. 10). Eutychus revived and came back to the brethren, eating and staying till daybreak the next day (v. 11).

Lessons From Eutychus

Though we only have a few short verses dedicated to Eutychus, we can gain some valuable spiritual lessons. Eutychus had positioned himself between the light of the room from the brethren, and the dark night of the world sitting in the window. Physically, this turned out dangerous for him. Spiritually speaking, trying to tow the line between light and darkness is a dangerous place to be, hazardous for a fall.

Eutychus also found himself falling into a deep sleep. Though I’m sure the preaching of Paul was not the problem, Eutychus was lulled into sleep by the haze of the light and the droning on of the preacher. It takes effort on the part of the listener to stay engaged in the doctrine, examples, and principles being taught in a class or espoused in a sermon. We can become sluggish when we are tired and lose our focus when we are surrounded by other Christian lights and become complacent, thinking we’ve heard this sermon before, this lesson is not for me, and succumb to the desires of the flesh. Many young adults have slept through the alarm clock of Sunday morning worship because their spirit was willing but the flesh was too weak. “What fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (II Corinthians 6:14).

When Eutychus fell, he took a nasty fall from the third-story building. No doubt the young man was taken up dead. How many young people have committed themselves to the Lord, put on Christ in baptism, and soon after fallen away? Eutychus makes us think of the nasty temptations our young people are assaulted with by the world. Drugs, alcohol, parties, and pre-marital sex are all things the devil uses to entice even the most dedicated of young Christians. In the denominational world, most believe in “once saved always saved.” Yet Eutychus teaches us, spiritually speaking, that one can be in the light and yet still fall into darkness. “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (Heb. 10:26). (See also the example of Simon Acts 8:18-24)

Though he was taken up dead, we see one final lesson the account of Eutychus brings: one who has fallen can have life again. The text says Paul embraced him. How many Christians who have fallen could start the road of recovery when they are embraced by faithful brethren who deeply care about them. When Eutychus was restored to life, Luke says about the brethren, “they were not a little comforted” when they received him back alive (v. 12). “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his ways will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19, 20).



ATTENTION GRADUATES!

SFA members, if you have an immediate family member graduating from high school, college, or technical school, please send a picture to the office and indicate the school, the degree (if applicable), and the graduate's future plans.

Join Us for Bible Classes!

Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45). It is impossible for our faith to outgrow our knowledge of God's word (Rom. 10:17). Come and grow spiritually with us!

Cradle Roll (behind tech booth) Sundays: Rene" (Bible basics) Wednesdays: Jagie (Bible basics)	Elementary (Room 17) Sundays: Kathy (EHT) Wednesdays: Becky (EHT)
2-3 Year-Old (Room 18) Sundays: Tiffany (EHT) Wednesdays: Nicole (EHT)	Teenage (Room 19) Sundays: Josh (EHT) Wednesdays: Vince (Ezra/Nehemiah)
4-5 Year-Old (Room 7) Sundays: Michelle(EHT) Wednesdays: Marissa (EHT)	Adult (Auditorium) Sundays: Vince (Acts 14-28) Wednesday: Brian (Revelation)

First Principles Class (Fellowship Room, any aged adults)
Wednesdays: Rick

PRAYER LIST

Current: Jimmy Sweeney is requesting prayers for upcoming medical tests. Jerry Pollard was hit by a car and his arm was injured. Mary Ankroum is back in the hospital

Continual: Brenda Mask (blood pressure issues); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Charles Paulin (health); Jim Turner (health). Margaret Coone (health) Kathy Nester(health), Melody Baxter (health), Barbara Jones (health)

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French

Extended family and Friend are Emailed Weekly

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

Save the Date:

June 4-7, 2023

Vacation Bible School

S. Florida Ave church of Christ

**Theme: Give Me Oil in My Lamp
Classes for all ages!**

VBS Work Day on May 13!

See Vince if you will be available to teach or to help in any capacity for this great event.



THE Phoebe ROMANS 16:1-2 GROUP
basket auction & brunch

\$10- adults
\$5- kids age 4-12
kids 3 and under: free

Saturday
May 27, 2023
10:30 A.M.
1807 S. Florida Ave · Lakeland FL · 33803

Join us for brunch & a silent auction of baskets to support the Florida School of Preaching!
Please RSVP to FSOP by May 20th



Thank you to my church family for the calls, cards and well wishes as I was recovering from my surgery. Most of all, I thank you for your prayers. It is such a blessing to be a member of this Christian family. I love you all!

- Jeanelle Thrower

“Love will cover a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8)

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Announcements.....Frank Hamby
Song Leader/prayer.....Kyle Bingle
DevotionalJarred Spivey
Prayer.....Phil Fife

Sunday, April 30, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty
"An Invitation" Matthew 22:1-14

6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Brian Kenyon
"Unrealized Casualties (2 Cor 11:3,13-15)

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Stacey Paulin
Song Leader (both services).....Andre Medley
Announcements.....Frank Hamby
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Joseph Faulk
Lord'sTable (both).....Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Bingle
Open/Close bldg (both).....David Deal
GreetersD&N Williams
Attendance cards (both).....Declan/Camron
Sound Booth (both).....Brian Williams

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderAndre Medley
Scripture reading/PrayerTyler Anderson
Closing PrayerWayne Shearer
Greeters PM.....Fife's

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Announcements.....Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader/prayer.....Andre Medley
DevotionalVince Daugherty
PrayerDavid Deal

Upcoming Events 2023

April

- 26 Lads to Leaders Banquet 5:45 pm
- 28 Singing night at Orange Street @ 7:00 pm
- 30 Fellowship in Service after PM service

May

- 2 Sr Saints Meeting
- 5-7 WWCC Youth Retreat
- 9 FSOP Ladies Class
- 13 VBS Work day
- 14 Elders/deacons meeting
- 14 FSOP Graduation

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 9.....	\$9,377.00
Apr. 16.....	\$5,660.00
Apr. 23.....	\$6,730.00
Contribution Average.....	\$7,072.86
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

How Full is Your Fruit Bowl?

In the nineteenth century many wealthy European and American families displayed a fruit bowl in their homes for visitors and dinner guests. These bowls were often made of ornate cut glass and contained the best fruits available. Reading this history reminded me of what the apostle Paul says about the "fruit of the Holy Spirit" in Galatians 5:22-23.

Paul lists nine characteristics that every Christian should work to attain. These are:

1. **LOVE:** Love is not just a warm feeling but a willingness to sacrifice for one another just as Jesus sacrificed His life for us (Romans 5:6-8).
2. **JOY:** Joy is deeper than happiness. It is a profound and delightful rejoicing that comes from knowing and serving God (Philippians 2:17-18).
3. **PEACE:** Peace is the ability to remain calm in difficult times. "Be anxious for nothing but in all things through prayer and supplication make your requests known unto God and the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).
4. **PATIENCE:** Patience is being "completely humble and gentle, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).
5. **KINDNESS:** Kindness is making the effort to be "kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).
6. **GOODNESS:** Goodness is living your life with good morals and motives; "let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of God" (Galatians 6:10).
7. **FAITHFULNESS:** Faithfulness includes being loyal, trustworthy, and dependable. James says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial" (James 1:12).
8. **GENTLENESS:** Gentleness includes softness in speech and touch among other qualities. "A soft answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).
9. **SELF CONTROL:** Self-control includes disciplining yourself in mind and body. Paul says, "But I discipline my body and keep it under control" (First Corinthians 9:27). The wise man confirms, "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

YOUTH SECTION V. Daugherty

Lessons from I Timothy

Worth memorizing:

"Godliness with contentment is great gain."
(1 Timothy 6:6)

- how are you doing in your God-like-ness?
- how are you doing in your contentment?

All congregations & Christian families are asked to set aside...

A Day of Prayer for Central Florida Bible Camp

Please pray for...

- CFBC's Mission & Vision
- Campers' spiritual growth
- Volunteers' sacrificial spirits
- Staff's love & patience
- Board's wisdom & leadership
- God's will in all things

Sunday
May 21



Spring Corn Roast



Saturday, May 20
3:00-6:00PM

Menu
Roasted Corn, Toppings,
Smoked Pork, Desserts
& Drinks.

Schedule of Activities

3:00-6:00 p.m. (Free) Disc Golf, Gaga Ball, Carpoolball, Corn Hole, Ping Pong, Basketball, Volleyball, and 9-Square-in-the-Air	3:00-6:00 p.m. Hamiles, 1,000 Zip Lins, Giant's Swing, Laser Tag & Axe-Throwing (\$10 Wristband Required)	6:30-8:00 p.m. Corn Roast \$12 Adult \$7 Kids <12 yrs.
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www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
Psalm 90:12*



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