



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 16 April 26, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

WEB PAGE

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HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

Rejoice in the Lord

Vince Daugherty

By the time Paul's mission trips had brought him to the continent of Europe, Christianity was taking root everywhere it was being preached. Not only were Jews being converted to Christ, but Gentiles as well. Wherever Paul went, it seemed like false teachers would try to come behind him and cause mayhem. Judaizing teachers were the worst offenders. If they could not stop Paul from preaching to and converting Gentiles to Christ, they would try their best to warp the message of the gospel and "Judaize" the brethren. What this meant for all intents and purposes would be an attempt to proselytize Gentiles into the Jewish system. They did not care much about the doctrine of Christ but were more concerned with things like circumcision, Jewish dietary laws, and keeping the sabbath. To the impressionable Gentiles, these Judaizing teachers were putting them in danger of leaving the one true Gospel for a warped system of works. Paul's exhortation to the Philippian brethren in Philippians 3 is a counterargument in which they needed to stand against the false and continue to strive toward the truth.

Rejoice in the Lord, Not in the Flesh

Paul begins Philippians 3, "my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." First and foremost our boast should always be in what the Lord has done for us. On the flip side, Paul says, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!" The euphemism of Paul is a reference to the Judaizing teachers. He calls them "dogs." Keep in mind that dogs in the ancient world were not like the fluffy domesticated animals you and I have in the house, dogs were wild, savage, mangy, despicable creatures. They would often run in packs, feast on discarded meat, and could be a major nuisance to a community if left unchecked. Add to that, unsuspecting individuals caught off guard could be bitten by these disease-carrying mongrel dogs and even have limbs mutilated. Paul says beware of those dogs. He says, "beware of the mutilation." This euphemism refers to the circumcision that the Judaizing teachers were trying to require. In contrast to the circumcision of the flesh, Paul says, "We are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." Circumcision, required under the law of Moses, was no longer binding under the law of Christ. "Some who went out from us having troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying 'You must be circumcised and keep the law' - to whom we gave no such commandment" (Acts 15:24). Further, the outward symbol of circumcision did not guarantee one's right standing with God. The Israelites were often in the Old Testament just as bad if not worse offenders than pagan nations, so the symbol that should have been a signpost for the people who were serious about their relationship with the Lord became a symbol of their own shame. "For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision" (Rom. 2:25). "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter, who praise is not from men but from God" (Rom. 2:28,29). Paul was an excellent candidate to speak on this topic. His credentials in the flesh could not be topped (see Phil. 3:4-6). Yet, he said, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ" (Phil. 3:7). He presses it saying, "I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish... (Phil. 3:8).

I Want to Know Christ

All the things Paul did gain and could have gained were nothing to knowing Christ. Paul says they are rubbish to be thrown out on the trash heap of life in comparison to gaining Christ. To lose status, power, wealth, etc. meant nothing compared to the status of being in Christ. Paul said he was much more interested in knowing about the power of Christ's resurrection (Phil. 3:10). For the Christian, death is not a terror but a welcomed sleep to awake in the bliss of paradise. Paul said he would magnify Christ in his body, "whether in by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20), that for him, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21), and "to depart and be with Christ is far better" (Phil. 1:23). Further, Paul said he wanted to know the fellowship of His sufferings. It seems counterintuitive to want to know about suffering, but to know Christ is to be familiar with suffering. Isaiah prophesied of Christ that He would be, "a man of sorrows." Paul gave his resume of sufferings in II Cor. 11:22-33. He said, "If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmities" (v. 30). It is actually in suffering we can draw closer to Christ. After Paul was stoned and left for dead he got up and preached saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), and, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). Paul said he wanted to be "conformed to His [Jesus's] death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." Paul was not a masochist, he knew that the more he lost and suffered he would be to Christ. Foremost Paul wanted to be so close to Christ in this life, that he would have the assurance of being in his presence in the next one.

Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize

Paul did not want anything distracting the Philippians

Youth Group

Vince Daugherty

I remember growing up my parents would say to me, "there's more to life than [fill-in-the-blank]." Usually it was something to do with TV, video games, sports, hanging out with friends or going to the movies. The principle they were trying to get me to see is a Biblical one. Even from an early age children must know to put God first. "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him [God] who, after He has killed, has the power to cast into hell; yes I say to you fear Him!" (Luke 12:5). The book of Proverbs says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (9:10). There was a rich fool who put money first. When he died all the money in the world would not help him (Luke 12:13-21). There is more to life than money. There is more to life than food or clothing (Luke. 12:22). There is more to life than worrying how tall you are (Luke. 12:25). God knows you have physical needs absolutely, but first we ought to "seek the kingdom of God, and these things shall be added to you" (Luke 12:31). There is more to life than things, money, food, etc. Always make sure we put God first, and let the rest sort itself out.

from their goal of a home in heaven. Of the Judaizing teachers, Paul said, "I wish those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!" (Gal. 5:12), of status or personal gain Paul said is "rubbish." Some may stop short and settle to merely cut out the negatives, but there is the upward pull of our lives in Christ as well. "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me" (Phil. 3:12). To help with our focus gives instruction, "but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead." We have not reached our goal of heaven. Therefore we are still on our journey home. When we mess up and fail miserably, thank God that "His mercies are new every morning" (Lam. 2:22,23). When we do well say, "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what is our duty to do" (Luke 17:10). Those false teachers, the ones focused on the cares of this world, were/are coming to nothing. "Many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things" (Phil. 3:19). "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait..." (Phil. 3:20).

CONTRASTING CHRISTIANITY

Rick Kenyon

"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (NASB95). It is no secret that Christianity responds differently than the social and cultural responses than one would expect. It is easy to be kind to those who are kind. However, our reactions and responses do not reciprocate people but God. When we respond like Jesus, our faith stands in stark contrast to the those around us. Casual Christianity is commonplace, but it is flawed and ineffective in truly converting people to God. To be the people "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14), we must stand in contrast to the world and anyone who proclaims Christ but fails to live like Him. Consider a few contrasting responses: Listen even when others are shouting. Don't scream back, but seek to hear and understand those who believe that the only way to be heard is to shout (James 1:19; Prov. 15:1; 16:32). Be patient, especially when others are not. No matter how impatient we are, God never "loses patience" with us (2 Pt. 3:9). "Be patient with all" (1 Thess. 5:14). Show empathy, especially when others are calloused. Compassion should not be reserved for the "deserving," who fall victim to circumstance or misfortune but also for those who know the trouble they've brought upon themselves and/or others. A hard heart is not the same as a strong heart (1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Jn. 3:17; Jude 22). True Christianity does not blend in with the reactions and responses of world. Reciprocal kindness is not a distinctive mark of Christ: "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same" (Lk. 6:33). Live like Jesus and let unconditional kindness and love dominate your life.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Bill Long - health
 Toney Wilson - health
 Declan Potvin - upcoming surgery

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Charles Paulin - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 George Davis - health

(Please update the office of any changes)

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

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Updates & Prayer requests

Jim Turner is home from the hospital.
Bernetta Green is not feeling well.
Declan Potvin is schedule to have adenoids and tonsils removed on April 29.

"Brothers, pray for us" 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Invitation Responses

Debbie Bush asks for prayers for struggles in her relationship with her family and struggles with coming to worship. She wants to be right with God.

*There will be a farewell to
 Courtney Williams
 on Sunday, May, 8 after the evening worship
 service. Courtney will be moving the Salt Lake City*

"Rejoice with those who rejoice" Romans 12:15

CLASS OF 2022

Please join us on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall to celebrate

SFA's Graduating Seniors

Ian Enamorado

Kaeli Shearer

Dylan Willcut

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Rick Kenyon
 Devo Josh Cantrell
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Sunday, May 1, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 What Storms Do
 Matthew 8:23-37

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 Biblical Peace
 Titus 1:4

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) B. Sheumaker
 Greeters Bingle
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Andre Medley
 Lord's Table David Williams
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Lord's Table David Williams
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard
 Greeters Stewart

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Frank Hamby
 Devo Josh Potvin
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

April

29-May 1 - WWCC Youth
 Retreat, Tagtow

May

14 - SFA graduation
 fellowship, 1 pm
 15 - Elders meeting, 4pm
 15 - FSOP graduation
 2 - Senior Saints class, 11a
 5 - Kahoot, weekly
 8 - *Mother's Day*
 10 - SFA Men's breakfast
 10 - FSOP Ladies class
 14 - Ladies' Swap, 10 am
 20 - Fiesta Friday
 21 - Men's breakfast,
 N. Lakeland

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr 10 \$6,026.00
 Apr 17 \$5,000.00
 Apr 24 \$5,457.73
 Contribution Average \$6,459.22
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

I walk on water toward Jesus in the blue skies and rainbow days. My Savior and I. Piece of cake!

But the bills are starting to cloud my day - It's ok, God will provide.

Now my son is starting to splash around in rebellious muddy puddles - I'll teach and preach then clean him up.

Work is absorbing my Bible study time - I've got responsibilities and people depending on me.

Friends are hurting - I can't let them down.

I am wife. I am mom. I am employee. I am friend. I am overwhelmed. I am tired.

God said to [me], "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14).

Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of [me], saying to [me],

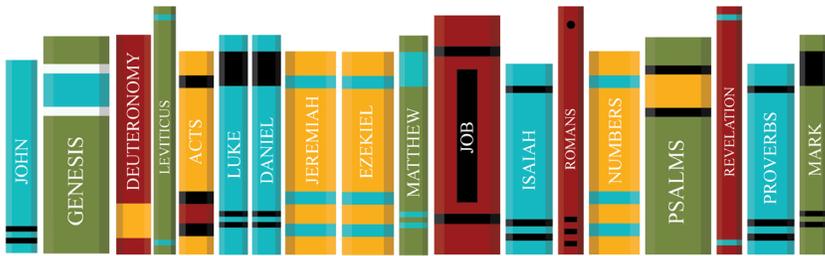
"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31)

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27).

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



the B-I-B-L-E
that's the book for me

SFA VBS 2022

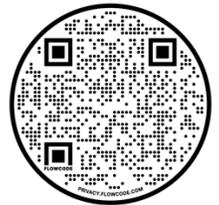
**Nightly classes available for
pre-school to adults**

Sunday - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Monday - Wednesday
7:00 - 8:30 pm**



Scan to pre-register
or go to
our website



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

**"If we say we have not
sinned, we make Him a
liar, and His word is not
in us."**

1 John 4:10



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