



South Florida Ave. church of Christ

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

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Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Jason Hendrix
John McShane
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Hiram Kemp

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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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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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COMPREHENDING THE CHRONICLES

Hiram Kemp

Two of the lesser known books of the Old Testament are the books of 1 & 2 Chronicles. Many people think they simply repeat the same material from the books of First and Second Kings. Others are turned off by the genealogical records contained in the books and rather leave them unread. The Chronicles are inspired as much as the rest of the Bible and worthy of our study and attention (2 Tim. 3:16-17). These books contain things which are needed for our learning and provide the encouragement and hope that we need (Rom. 15:4). In our Bible reading plan for the month of May we will be reading the Chronicles. I hope this article will provide some insight into these books as well as some encouragement to revisit them often in your study of God's Word.

RECORDS TO REMEMBER

It is a mistake to assume that the Chronicles simply echo what we find in 1 & 2 Kings. It is true that these books do not contradict each other, but they do not simply say the same things. Just like each of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) have a unique and inspired perspective on the life of Jesus, the Chronicles show Israel's history from a unique angle (cf. Luke 1:1-4; Jn. 20:30-31). While 1 & 2 Kings deal with the history of both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, 1 & 2 Chronicles deal mainly with the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles deal with the genealogical records of God's people beginning with Adam. These books were more likely written to and for people who had returned from Babylonian captivity and would need to be reminded of their people and their heritage. These records would remind them of who they were as they learned about the rich and blessed blood flowing through their veins being Abraham's descendants (Gen. 12:1-3). Additionally, they would learn and be reminded of who God is as He always keeps His promises to bless and to restore (Josh 21:43-45; 2 Chr. 7:). The genealogies recorded in these opening chapters do more than simply fill the pages they are design to fill and flood the hearts of the people of God with good memories.

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE KINGS

As the writer of Chronicles is attempting to remind and rekindle love for the things of God in the people's heart, it is interesting to notice what is included and what is excluded. For example, there is only one chapter dedicated to the kingship and downfall of Saul (1 Chr. 10). David's sin with Bathsheba is not mentioned at all in the Chronicles though it is alluded to in 1 Kings (1 Kgs. 15:5). Solomon's disastrous end with women and idolatry is not mentioned in the section of 2 Chronicles devoted to his life. Instead we are told of his building projects, his reign, all his works, and that is it (2 Chr. 10:23-31). A similar history is recorded about King Manasseh. 2 Kings records him as being one of the most wicked kings in all of Judah (2 Kgs. 21:1-20) while 2 Chronicles does not shy away from all the evil he did (2 Chr. 33:1-2). Unlike in 2 Kings, it tells us that he repented later in life and changed his ways (2 Chr. 33:10-20). The writer of 1 & 2 Chronicles did not record a different history than what we find in the Kings. Rather, these books emphasize

a change of heart among the leaders. Speaking to those returning from 70 years of punishment in Babylon, this would be a powerful message (Jer. 25:7-11). If their kings changed and repented, maybe they could, too. The message shows us that people do not have to end how they begin. We can choose to either emphasize the negative or the positive in everyone (1 Tim. 1:12-16).

RECOGNIZE ORDERLY WORSHIP

We have all been in conversations with family and friends about worship in the New Testament where we are trying to teach them the reason why we do things as we do. Sometimes in those conversations they cannot comprehend the need to separate the covenants. Mention will often be made of instruments from the Psalms and other places in the Old Testament (Psa. 150). The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles help immensely to clear up many of these misunderstandings about the worship that took place with instruments under the old covenant. We are told that David organized Levites, singers, and other temple officials to officiate the worship that took place (1 Chr. 24-27). More than a free for all where everyone played any instrument they wanted, the worship was regulated

by God as He told David what He wanted (1 Chr. 24:19). Add to this that we are under a new covenant where we are commanded to sing one to another with no mention being made of mechanical instruments accompanying our singing (Jn. 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17).

Also, we see that God has always desired order in worship (1 Cor. 14:40). It does not matter which covenant is under discussion. God tells people what to offer Him and how it is to be offered. 1 & 2 Chronicles is written to show those coming home how they need to approach God. These books are also filled with praise as the kings and the people boast in God and laud His name for all He has done (see 1 Chr. 29 and 2 Chr. 20). We may not worship in the same way that they did, but we can learn from their attitude and their hearts.

There is so much more that could be said about these books. We could speak of what they teach us about restoration, about the need to be faithful, and God's righteous judgment. Let us take note of these two important Old Testament books and read them intently. God placed them in the Bible for our good!



The Command of 1 Peter 3:15

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense"

#1 we must give ourselves wholly to the Lord - God's character and personality should be so known to us that it becomes ingrained and intertwined with my own character and personality -- it has become *sanctified in our hearts*. We received that through the knowledge we gain from studying our Bible. I cannot say my character and personality reflect an individual I don't even know. If I want to act and carry myself like Lebron James, I need to study him and how he carries himself. Each individual has the responsibility for him or herself to sanctify the Lord in their own hearts. I cannot depend on parents, preachers, or elders to sanctify my heart for me.

#2 we must always be ready to give a defense - Why do you do the things you do? Why read the Bible; why come to church; why abstain from certain conversations? What is your *defense* or reason for doing the things you do? Again, parents, preachers, or elders cannot answer for you, but **you** individually, must give an answer. A time will come when you are asked if the Lord God is sanctified in your heart. The answer should be quick and easy. If he is not, you will struggle. Are you ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear?

Are we taking the commands of 1 Peter 3:15 seriously?

Parents of 2s - PreK:

Remember Stephanie Kenyon will be hosting a Bible lesson via Zoom on Thursday, April 30 at 4 p.m. Link is on the youth group's webpage.

Senior Saints

Advice to our Senior Saints

A thought for those of us that are mature seniors. If you have been offended by someone, forgive them. If you have offended someone, apologize. Don't drag around resentment with you. It only makes you sad and bitter. It doesn't matter who was right. It has been said that holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die. Holding a get even attitude is also letting the other person control you. Forgive, forget, and move on to a happier life.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Hebrews 12:14

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

PRAYER LIST

Ginny Hamby; Carlene Long; Stacey Paulin; Bobby Simpson; Melody Baxter; Carol Pace; Cierra Edwards; Margaret Coone; Ellen Shearer; Bob Pratt; Ray Nashick; Ron & Judy Ford; Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt; Debbie Bush; Geny Johnson; Brian Smith; Sharon Washington; Bernetta Green (hip pain); Annette Phillip.

Others: **George French** (Kenny & Reba's son, pancreatic cancer); **Roselyn Roberts** (friend of Darlene Thompson); **Daniel Styer** (Rene' Bingle's friend's son, neck cancer); **Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister); **Alicia Zamot** (Jagie's aunt); **Keith Cozort** (former member); **Chip Bolding**; **Tony Seibert**; **Neil Entwistle Sr.**; **Tanya Irizarry**; **Trevor & Sandy Hutchins**; **Derick Jordan**; student of **Jimmy Sweeney** (brain tumor); **Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son); **Mary Ankroum** (knee surgery); **Bruce Coleman**; **Patricia Hewitt** (chemo); **Mary Grow** (former member having health issues); **Larry Lloyd** (cancer has spread to brain and lungs); **Phil Sweeney** (shingles, friend of Brenda Mask).

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Carol Eason
Joyce Burbage Cheryl Barker
Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

More cases of the virus has been discovered at **Ellen Shearer's** facility. Please pray for Ellen's health and safety and for Wayne & Anita as they are making difficult decisions.

Margaret Coone's, Alonzo, son is in LRMH with pneumonia.

Thank you

We want to thank everyone for the calls and cards of concern and encouragement. Bob appreciates the birthday cards and calls. We really like the pictures from Sawyer, Harper & Maddie. May God keep us all safe until we come together again. We miss everyone so much! We love you all. ~ **Bob and Bea**

P.S. A big THANK YOU to all who make it possible for us to hear God's Word at home

Thank you

A big thank you to all of you who remembered **Declan** for his birthday with such a great card. That was so thoughtful. We really appreciate it. It makes me happy that my little boy has so many people thinking of him. In Christian Love, **Josh Potvin**

Communion to Shut-Ins

THIS WORK HAS BEEN POSTPONED. PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Faith West Ellen Shearer Joyce Burbage
Carol Eason Cheryl Barker

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

MAY

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"The Difference the Gospel Makes (Acts 16)"

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Why Did God Put Genealogies in the Bible"
(1 Chron. 9:1)

All worship assignments are postponed.

Live stream will continue until further notice.

Please **do not** come to the building for worship service.

COVID 19 NOTICE

Since March 22, we have not assembled for Bible classes or worship service at the church building. However, we *are still worshipping* our Lord on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). As scheduled, we are live-streaming the entire worship service. You are able to access this on our website and/or YouTube channel.

As commanded, we will still worship together, but it will be from home. We trust you will participate either with your family or with a small group. A handful of our men will lead worship: prayers, songs, sermons, Lord's supper. If you need communion, come by the office or it can be brought to you before Sunday. For the contribution, you may bring it or mail it to the office.

Auditorium Bible classes for both Wednesdays and Sunday mornings will be live streamed, also. Hiram and Vince will also be recording video devotionals during the week. These can also be accessed on our website.

This is a very unusual situation we are facing. We appreciate your cooperation. The safety of our members is very important. The worship of our Lord is of utmost importance. This is a temporary expediency for worshipping. This will not be a permanent situation. The Lord will see us through this crisis.

We covet your prayers,
David Anderson Kenny French
Brian Kenyon Bobby Sheumaker
- Elders -

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 12	\$7,545.00
Apr. 19	\$6,080.00
Apr. 26	\$6,915.00
Contribution Average	\$6,910.15

For Our Ladies

Our elders have approved this section for our ladies. It will include announcements of activities and devotional thoughts written by one of our own. Check your email for more information.

Annual Ladies' Swap

It's time for another "swap"! If you would like to participate, you must donate 10 or more items (good time to clean out those closets)! Items can be clothes, purses, shoes, jewelry, perfume, household items, etc. Bring your items to the building with your name on them so I'll know who's participating. I will get all of the items organized & set-up. When the government allows us to meet in groups again, we will have the actual swap. Please bring your items by May 25.

Any questions, contact Rene' Bingle.



5/10 - FSOP graduation

5/10 - **MOTHER'S DAY**

5/25 - Memorial Day

5/25 - Ladies' Swap drop-off deadline

All updates to these events will appear here.



We invite you to worship the Lord with us
During this unusual time, you can worship via our
YouTube channel where our service will be live streamed.

You can enjoy our Bible class at 9:30 am
then morning service which begins at 10:30 am.
We come together in the evening to worship again at
6:00 pm.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



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Return Service Requested

