

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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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
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.

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SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Sidney Moore Graduating FSOP Sunday, May 13, 2018



Brother Moore is from Tampa and has spent his life in the Tampa Bay area. He was baptized in 1999, a few years prior to enrolling at USF, where he earned a bachelors of arts in Africana studies (2005). He has also taken several graduate classes toward a masters in educational leadership. He came to preaching school from the Bay Area church of Christ in Mango, Florida. Sidney served as a teacher with the School District of Hillsborough County for seven years, working with adults and youth in the Department of Adult and Community Education. He has been involved with local VBS programs and youth lectureships in the Tampa Bay area. He has also worked closely with the Twenty-Ninth Street church of Christ in Tampa with evangelistic efforts. He is currently developing a community initiative called "Pray and Play." He and his wife, Cathleen, have seven children (Sidney Moore, II, Desmond, Zane, James, Ava, Sariah, and Rebekah). After graduation, Sidney plans on preaching the Gospel and being more involved in evangelism. He looks forward to edifying the body of Christ through preaching and teaching the Gospel in whatever capacity the Lord wills.

Do We Know the True God?

Brian R. Kenyon

There are many views about God in the religious world, but can they all be true? Is Islam's "Allah" the true God? Is present day Judaism's "God" the true God? What about the "God" of the so-called "Christian" denominations? Is their "God" the true God? Let us examine Paul's sermon on Mars' Hill to know the truth about the true God (Acts 17:23-31).

The True God Is Unknown to Many

When Paul was in Athens, he stood "in the midst of the Areopagus [Mars' Hill, KJV]" and said, "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE (continued on page 2)

UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you” (Acts 17:23). Earlier, as Paul waited in Athens for his coworkers, “his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols” (Acts 17:16). Ancient historians have acknowledged that the Athenian landscape was dotted with idolatrous shrines. Standing from where Paul stood, evidence of idolatry could literally be seen in every direction. The Athenians had a god for just about everything. If an altar was dedicated to the wrong god or if they accidentally left out a god, they feared the anger of that god. Thus, to give themselves an out, they erected this altar “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.” As Paul made the application, he declared this unknown god as the true God. The Athenians knew many “gods,” but the only true God was completely unknown to them. There are people today, who are “very religious [superstitious, KJV]” (Acts 17:22), but are completely unknowledgeable of the true God. Why? Because their idea of God comes from human tradition and/or man-made religion. Yes, these views of God may contain some Biblical truth, but when we mix Biblical truth with human-made doctrine, we cannot still have Biblical truth. We must, therefore, derive our full view of God from what the Bible teaches. If not, we cannot really know the true God!

The True God Created the Universe

Paul declared that “God ... made the world and everything in it” (Acts 17:24a). The idea that there is a “god for this” and a “god for that” is absurd. The true God made it all (Gen. 1:1-31; Isa. 42:5; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 11:3). This one true God was not to be confused with any of the numerous gods the Athenians knew. The only one of their gods to whom the true God could be identified was “THE UNKNOWN GOD”! Because the true God is “Lord of heaven and earth,” He “does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:24b-25). Contrary to the many shrines dotting the landscape of Athens in Paul’s day, no temple can contain the true God, which should be an obvious conclusion based upon His superiority over all creation (cf. Col. 1:15-18). The true God is self-sufficient. Unlike the false gods of Athens who needed to be waited on with offerings and temples, the true God does not need the service of human hands. Rather, the true God is the source of life, breath, and all things we enjoy. Do we know this God?

The True God Made All People for a Purpose

There is unity of the human race through God’s creation of Adam. Paul declared that God “has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26a). The word for “blood” is not in the Greek manuscripts upon which most newer translations are based. They render it simply, “he made of one” (ASV). Either way, however, this concept would seem strange to the Athenians because they believed that each nation had its own god. However, Paul said that all nations of people came from the one true God! In making all people from one, God “has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (Acts 17:26b). This phrase emphasizes God’s providential control of human affairs without denying human free will. Nations rise and fall according to God’s will and for His purpose (cf. Job 12:23). Instead of being regulated by separate national gods, as the Athenians thought, all nations are controlled by the true God!

Why has God arranged it this way? “So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring’” (Acts 17:27-28). God wants all mankind to seek Him, not turn away from Him (cf. Rom. 1:18-32). God is not so far away that people cannot find Him. In fact, the very environment in which God placed us points to Him (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:20). Even pagan poets reached the conclusion Paul preached! Because we are the “offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising” (Acts 17:29). “Divine Nature [Godhead, KJV]” cannot be represented by anything human wisdom, skill, or craftsmanship can fashion (cf. Ex. 20:4-5)!

The True God Wants All to Repent

Paul concluded his sermon on the Areopagus, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31). Note that God did not overlook sin, but rather “these times of ignorance.” Paul made clear that God has never approved the idea of many gods, although He did not always exercise His full power against idolaters. Now, *(continued on page 4)*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Wanda Bruno was admitted into the hospital on Monday. Please remember in prayer Faith West, Ginny Hamby, Jim Turner, Brenda Mask, 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

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

Sunday May 6th: at 4:30 p.m. there will be a Ladies planning meeting to discuss the up-coming Ladies Day in October.

Monday May 7th: Young Ladies Bible Class at 7:00 p.m. Meet at 5:30 p.m. for a service project and pizza.

Sunday May 13th: F.S.O.P. Graduation following evening services. Please bring finger foods and drinks for a fellowship meal to celebrate with our graduate.

Saturday May 19th: Men's breakfast at North Lakeland church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

The 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month: North Lakeland church of Christ invites you to join in sharing the Word of God with the residents of Valenica Hills Health and Re-hab Ctr. from 3-4 p.m.

Sunday May 27th: Our monthly Fellowship Meal and 2nd worship service following.

Response

We rejoice in the response of Denise Phillips and Vicki Rapley and their desire to come back and worship and be right with God. They were so missed. Please let us continue to keep them in prayer and encourage them. Also, Melody Baxter asked for the prayers of the congregation. Please remember them all.

Congratulations

Sophia Grace Horn was born on Mon. 4/23/18 to Carla Horn, weighing 6 lbs 15 oz. Proud grandmother is Darlene Thompson.

Visitors

Lamarian Wilson, David & Susan Stearsman and boys, Dustin Walling, LaShunda Luster, Michelle Gregorio, Joyce Williams, Tiffany Hash, Megan & Sam, Roy & Sharon Hibbert and Joel & Hannah Danley and family.

 Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

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

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

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

Sunday, May 13, 2018
 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Stacey Paulin
Prayer David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader..... Chaz Hine
Opening Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... C.J. Grimes
Sound Booth..... Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
Sound Booth..... Paul Sweeney
Greeters..... Williams
Att. Cards..... Paul/Colby
Open & Close Building C. J. Grimes

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Ken Walker
Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

April 8.....\$4,670.80
April 15.....\$5,365.87
April 22.....\$5,772.60
April 29.....\$5,469.31
Contribution Average.....\$5,708.41
2018 Weekly Budget..... \$4,887.98

Do We Know the True God? (continued from page 2)

however, all people are called upon to repent because all are accountable to the true God (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10). The true God will judge the world by His Son. This is the first direct allusion to Jesus in this sermon. Its coming at the end shows us that people cannot know the Son of God unless they first know the true God. Evidence that Jesus will be the Judge is the fact that God had raised "Him from the dead" (cf. Jn. 5:26-27).

Conclusion

Not intimidated by those Greek philosophers, Paul gave an excellent sermon on the one true God. This God is unknown to many; He made all things; He made all people; and He demands repentance. God is still the same. He wants the sinful to acknowledge His will and repent (cf. Acts 2:38). Judgement Day is coming, but the true God has provided salvation to the obedient (Heb. 9:27-28). Do we know the true God? ❤️ *Brian*



Thank You!

We appreciate the entire South Florida Avenue church of Christ, from top to bottom, for their tremendous support for our L2L program. We have a great group of parents who made sure their children were present for Sunday afternoon projects and practices. We have a great group of mentors who sacrificed their time and shared their talents to prepare our children. We look forward to the 2019 convention theme, "I Am" (Exodus 3:14)!



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 . . .



If you or someone from your immediate family is graduating this year, please get a picture to the office by May 8, 2018, along with the name of the school, degree (if applicable), and future plans. We will include them in a special bulletin!



May 19 -Work day at camp
May 20 -Day of prayer for the camp's building projects

Join several from SFA and area congregations attending **July 1-7, 2018** during the Mullins/Hilliard/Faneuf week!

55+
Evangelism

If you (or your friends and relatives) live in a "fifty-five plus" community, we would like to evangelize it, but we need your help. Please see John McShane or Steve Hunley for some great ideas.



Instead of "greeting" people as they depart from services, we would like to greet them as they arrive. If you can come 15 minutes before services begin and are interested in serving in this very important area, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board. We will add you to the weekly "rotation."

The Time Is Drawing Near! Our young people and their chaperones will be going on the YES II mission trip to Boquete, Panama, June 1-9, 2018, Lord willing. Please keep them in our prayers for safety and success!



Save the Date VBS Saturday, July 28
Teachers, helpers, and volunteers will be needed!