



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 19 May 11, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

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.



Spring Class of 2021



Edward Atkins came to FSOP from the Hialeah church of Christ, where he was very active in the work. He filled-in for preaching, taught Bible classes, led singing, served in various capacities of worship and evangelism. Before coming to FSOP, he worked as a secretary for the United Teachers of Dade (County, Florida), a teachers' union. After graduation, he plans on learning a trade, so he can be self-supportive while serving the church.



Daniel Pingree came to FSOP from the Lake Tarpon church of Christ, where he was very active in the work. FSOP graduate Andrea Smith was instrumental in his conversion. Before coming to FSOP, he put metal plating on products. Prior to that he was a commercial diver. After graduation, he plans to work full-time preaching and serving Christ. He and his wife, Blair, have two daughters, Alexis and Avery, and a newborn son, Jeremiah.



Gavin C. Williams came to FSOP from the Hialeah church of Christ, where he was involved in leading prayer, serving on the Lord's table, and assisting in other acts of worship. He has also filled-in for preaching and teaching Bible classes. He worked at Dollar Tree during the summer between high school graduation and his first semester at FSOP. After graduation, he plans on learning a trade to support himself while serving the church.

THE TRIUNE GOD

by Hiram Kemp

The Bible not only teaches that God exists but that God exists in a triune nature. The triune nature of God is often described using terms like the Godhead or the trinity. The point is that there are three distinct individuals or beings who possess the Divine nature. This doctrine is ignored by some, confusing to many, and a challenge to all. The Bible says in several places that there is one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6). Yet, the Bible also teaches that within that oneness, there are three individuals: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The oneness of God is not contradicted by the fact that three different beings possess a divine nature. There is an uncompromised unity among the three members of the Godhead, though each member contains His distinct individuality.

We must humbly approach this subject, realizing that there are some things about God and His nature that we will not know on this side of eternity (Duet. 29:29; Job 11:7). Nevertheless, we also must acknowledge that God has given us enough information in Scripture to speak with some definiteness on His triune nature. The triune nature of God is not a side issue that should only be engaged by specialists. The nature and identity of God is to be studied, known, and appreciated by all of God's people. In this article, I want to briefly point out some things about each member of the Godhead that will hopefully help us appreciate Scripture's teaching on this vital subject.

GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is perhaps the most familiar of the three members to most Christians. Most times, when God is referenced, this is who we have in mind. God the Father is eternal and is responsible for creating the world that we live in (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 43:7; Rev. 4:11). Furthermore, God the Father is seen as the One who often spoke to God's

people in the Old Testament (Heb. 1:1). He led Israel out of Egypt and provided for them in the wilderness (1 Cor. 10:1-13). Our prayers are directed to God the Father in the name of His Son Jesus (John 15:16). God the Father is described as the One who sent the Son into the world for the forgiveness of our sins (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 4:10). Some have described God the Father as the member of the Godhead who orchestrated the plan to save humanity, the mind behind the scheme of redemption (cf. John 3:16). Jesus often describes Himself as being sent by the Father and showing that He came to do His Father's will (John 3:17, 5:23, 6:29, 6:57, etc.). Finally, one day Jesus will deliver the kingdom (i.e., the church) up to God the Father that the Father may be all in all (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

GOD THE SON

Jesus the Christ is presented to readers of Scripture as the Son of God (Mark 1:1; Rom. 1:1-4). Jesus, God the Son, is the one who came into the world to die for our sins (Gal. 4:4- 5; Matt. 26:28). Though Jesus emptied Himself and became a human (Phil. 2:5-11), the Bible still describes Him as being equal with God (John 1:1-4; Heb. 1:1-3). It is important to see that Jesus is as much God as God the Father and not any less. He, too, is mentioned as being responsible for creation (Col. 1:15-17). While many are familiar with the humanity of Jesus, we must remain impressed with His deity and the fullness of (Col. 2:9). Jesus was able to forgive sins (Mark 2:5- 7), read minds (John 2:24-25), and rise from the dead (John 10:18) because He is God (John 20:28). God the Son is the one who will judge us in the last day (John 5:22-24; 2 Cor. 5:10), and it is through His name that we are saved (Acts 4:12). Jesus as God the Son is worthy of worship equal to that of God the Father (see Revelation chapters 4 and 5).

(continued on page 4)

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

Outdoor Movie Night
8:00 p.m. at the Daugherty's home

Senior Saints by John McShane

One of my favorite things to do is read. Finding a nice quiet place with plenty of light, I can read for quite a while. There are authors, books, and magazines that deal with subjects that I enjoy reading. Anyone in a bookstore will soon realize that many of the books put out today are pushing a cause that the author believes in. Then right next to that book is another with completely contrasting views. One is hard-pressed today to verify what some authors are stating as fact. One has to read several books on the same subject to get a true picture. The same holds true for many of the "religious" publications available today that try to explain what the Bible really means. Many of us realize that there is only one book that matters when it comes to religion. The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God. According to Guinness World Records, as of 1995, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with an estimated 5 billion copies sold and distributed. With that many Bibles available, I wonder why there are so many conflicting stories regarding what the Bible says. We need to stick with what the Bible says and quit listening to what people think the Bible says. Timothy 2:14, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Acts 17:11, "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim & Carol Edmonson - health
 Adeline Hine - cancer treatments
 Bernetta Green - health
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Melody Baxter - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Kathy Nester - health
 Joyce Williams
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health

Brenda Mask - health
 Linda McShane
 Chuck Wyatt
 Jim Turner - health
 Bobby Simpson
 Cieara Edwards - procedure
 Geny Johnson - surgery
 Margaret Coone
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Debbie Bush - health
 Nasheka Medley - pregnancy
 Darlene Thompson - family

(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

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Give them a call.

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to **Darlene Thompson** on the death of her granddaughter,
 Kristen Palermo, on Friday, May 7.

Thank you

There are cards on the bulletin board from

Annette Phillip
Charlene Smith

VBS Workday - Saturday, May 15, 2021 starting at 10:00 am.
 We need as many workers as possible to help prepare. If you
 have a tent canopy, please see Vince.

Teachers' meeting - Sunday, May 23, 2021, 4:30 p.m.



Sisters Sending Sunshine reveal will be on
 Saturday, May 22 at 1:00 p.m. at
 Rene's home. If anyone wants to
 participate who is not currently,
 please let her know.

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be
 May 30, 2021.

If you would like to give additional funds at other times of
 the month, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to
 designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund.
 It will be collected by the elders.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Matthew Webb
 Devo David Williams
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, May 16, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Understanding the Holy Spirit, pt. 1"
 John 16:7-11

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Brian Kenyon
Being God's Child of Exhortation
 Acts 11:22-26

FSOP GRADUATION

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Jimmy Sweeney
 Greeters Stewart
 Song/prayer before class David Williams
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Wesley Brunson
 Closing Prayer Josh Potvin

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Bingle
 P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Kevin Patterson
 Lord's Table Wesley Brunson
 Closing Prayer Hiram Kemp

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Ian Enamorado
 Closing Prayer David Deal

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well
 and those who consider themselves high-risk
 to stay at home.

**To side with caution, we are still requiring
 masks to be worn upon entering the
 building as we have since July 2.**

We will continue live-streaming the services
 on YouTube as we have since March 22, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ **HOW ARE WE GIVING** ~

Apr. 25 \$7,092.00
May 2 \$5,679.00
May 9 \$9,199.00
Contribution Average \$7,224.49

During a Bible class, the teacher spoke about the idea of people putting on and taking off Christ like they do their clothes. That reminded me of the term, “judging clothes,” that some Jamaicans use to refer to the clothing children wear around the house or to play outside. I think the idea behind that term may have been that people wouldn’t “judge” you harshly because you were shabbily dressed. The only time for “dress up” was when you were going to church services, school, or a special function.

Some people tend to dress to impress others, make a fashion statement, or wear certain clothing for the shock effect. As Christian women, we should dress modestly! However, the adornment of the heart/spirit/mind is just as important if not more. When we are baptized, we put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). How are we being “judged” by the people around us who know we are Christians? Are we daily wearing Christ? Or do we conveniently take off Christ when we want to socialize with people of the world, listen to certain music, or when we are at work?

Let us all be mindful that we are daily dressed in Christ, that we are not spiritually naked, and that we are not playing dress up to the world, putting on a show. Check out the following scriptures that list what we are to put off and put on: Romans 13:12, 14; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:22, 24; 6:11, 13-17; Colossians 3:8-10, 12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

(continued)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Maybe the most mysterious member of the Godhead to us is God the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that the Spirit of God was present at creation (Gen. 1:1-2). Elihu rightly describes himself as being created by God’s Spirit (Job 33:4). The men who wrote the Bible were guided along by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20-21) as He gave them the words to write (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:13) but also to dwell in Christians in a permanent fashion (Acts 2:37, 5:32; cf. Psa. 51:11). He is called God, just like the Father and the Son (Acts 5:3-4). The Holy Spirit was possessed in a miraculous measure by some in the first-century church, but He is in all Christians today to seal us as children of God (Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 5:5).

CONCLUSION

Much more could be said about the one God and the triune nature He possesses. We should study each of the members of the trinity individually and collectively.

We need to appreciate Their distinct roles but also not make more of Their distinctions than the Bible does. We are baptized into the Godhead (Matt. 28:19), and we are in a close relationship with each of Them as we walk in the light (2 Cor. 13:14). Praise God for God!



SFA CHURCH OF CHRIST
VBS 2021
AN “IN-TENTS” FAITH

Saturday, June 5, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"HEAR, O ISRAEL:
THE LORD OUR GOD
IS ONE LORD"**

DEUTERONOMY 6:4