

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Robert McAnally
(863) 682-3600

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

PREACHING INTERN

Hiram Kemp

SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

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.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Jesus and the Passover

Hugo McCord

The Israelites were instructed to kill an unblemished lamb, “a male a year old” (Exodus 12:5) on the 14th day of Abib (April), “at the going down of the sun” (Deuteronomy 16:6), and to put the blood on the two side posts and the headpiece of their doors (Exodus 12:7). The lamb was to be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread (“the bread of affliction”) and “bitter herbs” that night (Deuteronomy 16:3; Exodus 12:8).

The Lord promised that, as he passed through the land to smite the Egyptians “at midnight,” when “I see the blood, I will pass over you,” and not allow “the destroyer” to enter that house (Exodus 12:13, 23, 29). So the Passover Feast was begun, and the Israelites were commanded to “keep this ordinance in its season from year to year” (Exodus 13:10), saying to their children: “It is the sacrifice of Jehovah’s passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses” (Exodus 12:26-27).

This “day” became a “memorial,” a “feast to Jehovah” (Exodus 12:14) “by an unlimited (olam) ordinance” (Exodus 12:14). But “in the fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4), “according to the eternal purpose” (Ephesians 3:11), Jesus appeared as a planned replacement of the Passover lamb, becoming “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Yes, in “the plan of the mystery, hidden for ages in God” (Ephesians 3:9), Jesus became “our Passover Lamb” (1 Corinthians 5:7). As no bones of the Passover lamb were broken (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12), so it was predicted that no bones would be broken in the body of “our Passover Lamb” (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36).

The Israelites, in their annual Passover “memorial,” through 1500 years from the days of Moses, remembered that their ancestors walked “out from the land of Egypt” in “a night to be much observed” (Exodus 12:14, 17, 37, 42). So Christians now honor in a weekly memorial their “Passover Lamb” (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 5:7). This their “Passover Lamb” has requested, “Do this in memory of me” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25). Thus the Old Testament Passover Feast, by God’s plan, is “fulfilled in the kingdom of God” when Christians in the Lord’s Supper “eat and drink,” said Jesus, “at my table in my kingdom” (Luke 22:16, 30; 1 Corinthians 11:20).

What Will a Man Give Up for Sin?

Tim Childs

Does sin have an “up” side? Satan would have you and me focus exclusively on what he might term the positives of disregarding the Word of the Lord. For instance, when Eve was being seduced by the father of lies (John 8:44), he directed her attention to the supposed benefit of rejecting God’s command while seeking to negate the force and warning God gave them concerning the consequences of sin (See Genesis 3:1-8). As it was, so it is. There is always a price to be paid for sin. Freedom isn’t free. Neither is sin! “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). How much will a man give up for the temporary pleasure sin may supply (Hebrews 11:25)?

How terribly sad it is that some are willing to give up their families for sin. Such was the case in Jesus’ immortal parable of the immoral son in Luke 15:11ff. The young man was willing to permanently distance himself from his loving father and the security his stable home life provided. Two other biblical examples are Cain, who slew his brother (Genesis 4:8), and the brothers of Joseph who sold him into slavery because of their envious hearts (Genesis 37:28). How deplorable it is for homes to be broken up when a parent simply walks away and creates permanent separation due to greed or lust (See Proverbs 5:15-23).

Some are willing to sacrifice their good health for sin. Good health is such a wonderful blessing from God that is often taken for granted. There are many sinful practices that are health and life-threatening: smoking or chewing tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, overeating, fornication, adultery, the use of illicit drugs or the abuse of prescription medicines, etc. The wise man, Solomon, writes about the inherent benefits of fearing the Lord and departing from evil: “It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones” (Proverbs 3:8).

Some are willing to give up a good name and their positive influence for sin. It can take many years of toil, service and sacrifice to build a good name. A good name is something that cannot just be bestowed upon someone as a gift. It is earned over time. However, it can be lost by one senseless act in a moment of time. When lost, it becomes elusive and most difficult to regain. Again Solomon writes, “But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away” (Proverbs 6:32-33).

Some, like Demas, are willing to give up their relationship with their loving God and Father for sin. Paul, the apostle, writes of him: “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica” (2 Timothy 4:10). Demas did not just forsake Paul. Unfortunately, there are countless men, women and young people who turn to walk in the footsteps of Demas. Their hearts are characterized by the thorny soil wherein the dynamic, living Word of God is choked out by the cares of this world and its deceitful riches (Matthew 13:22).

Some are willing to give up their soul for sin. The soul of man is precious to God and has incalculable value as is understood by our Lord’s rhetorical question thus posed: “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

Finally, there are some who are willing to give up heaven for sin. It staggers the human mind to contemplate how glorious and wonderful will be that eternal city, the home of the soul that is prepared for those who have loved and served the Lord in sincerity and in truth (Joshua 24:14). “There’s no place like home” is a saying that uniquely fits when talking about our heavenly home. However, those who are shortsighted expending their energies on laying up treasures upon the earth rather than in heaven and giving themselves over to “walk as the Gentiles” in their degrading lust will find themselves “homeless” and as castaways, suffering the flames of God’s eternal wrath (Mark 9:44).

What are you willing to give up for sin? When you do business and trade with the devil you will never come out ahead. He is cunning and subtle, and he will beat you every time, and when he is finished with you, you will have lost all the things that matter most in this world: your family, your health, your good name and influence, your relationship with your Heavenly Father, your soul and your hope of heaven. You must decide: In the end, when all is said and done, are the temporary pleasures of sin really worth all the loss?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Evelyn Wyatt will be having some tests done this week. Jacquelin Dopwell started chemo this last week and is very ill. She is scheduled to have treatments every 3 weeks for 6 months. Also keep Jim Turner, JoAnn Hoback, Elizabeth Tubbs, Dorothy Trice, Debbie Horsley and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Bobby Cooper, Earl Shanes, Janet Romberger, Pamela Cox, (Ron Cox's mother) and Harold Rister.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Ann Howard, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson and Sharon Edler.

Others: Jackie Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Ann Wood and Alyssa Buckner. Keep all of these in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

May 21st: Men's breakfast at the North Lakeland Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

May 22nd-26th: Gospel Meeting at the 10th St. Church of Christ in Apopka, FL. Hiram Kemp will be the speaker. See the flyer or the slide for more details.

Sympathy

Shirley Faneuf from the Orange Street congregation passed away on Thursday May 12th. Many here at S.F.A. knew this long time elder's wife. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Thank You

Thank you to the S.F.A. congregation for all of your encouragement while I attended the F.S.O.P. My family and I appreciate the kindness shown and all the support we received during school and the interning period. Thanks for the cards and gifts given at the graduation. We are looking forward to working with the congregation here beginning in June and furthering the Lord's cause in this area.

In Christ, Hiram Kemp and family.

Thank you for your generous donation to my treatment. I am very blessed to have such supportive brothers and sisters in Christ.

Kathy Bitting Peel

Visitors

Tania Portelles-Driggs, Debra Pavlovic Okolichany, Eddie & Kim Mason, Charles Ferguson, and Jeffrey Market & Alexandria.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Frank Hamby **Table** Fred Strickland
Ken Walker **Assist** Bobby Simpson

Sunday, May 22, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon Bob McAnally
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Greeters The Longfellows
Att. Cards Paul and Ian
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Open & Close Building Kenny French

Wed. May 25, 2016

Song Leader Bill Long
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231

Sunday, May 29, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Greeters The Grimes
Att. Cards Antonio & Quadarius
Closing Prayer Chuck Wyatt
Open & Close Building Kenny French

Wed. June 1, 2016

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 24.....	\$5,569.00
May. 01.....	\$5,601.20
May. 08.....	\$4,910.50
May. 15.....	\$5,253.00
Contribution Average.....	\$5,091.59
2016 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,422.60

Profile of Prayer

Prayer should be an important part of a Christian's life. Sometimes Christians, especially young or new ones, do not know about prayer.

The apostle Paul gives great insight into prayer when he writes to his young evangelist coworker, Timothy: "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority" (1 Timothy 2:1-2a). The expression, "first of all," focuses attention on the importance of what is to follow. God's people are to pray for "all men." The universality of the human subjects of prayer corresponds to the universality of God's desire for "all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4 cf. "all men," 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:11; 3:2). Since God wants all people saved, Christians must pray for all people! Paul lists specific civil rulers as the subject of prayer for his purposes here. Although first century Christians faced severe persecution because of decisions these rulers made, Paul knew the only way for rulers to make better decisions was to be better informed about God's salvation (cf. Ezra 7:27-28; 9:6-9). Thus, prayers for civil leaders had a very practical purpose for the first century church as they do for the church today! Paul uses four different words to describe prayer, which are somewhat synonymous, and are perhaps best viewed as different nuances. "Supplications [entreaties, NAS]" are requests made to God based upon the petitioner's humble recognition of deep spiritual needs (1 Timothy 5:5; 2 Timothy 1:3 cf. James 5:16). "Prayers" are general prayers for God to give overall (continued below)



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

VBS
June 18

Thanks for all those who attended the VBS planning meeting last Sunday night. We look forward to having a great day of learning more about God. At the time this bulletin was printed, feedback was still being evaluated. Stay tuned for the theme, classes, and times of this event!

The time is drawing near for our mission trip, to Nicaragua June 25 thru July 3. If you want to make a special contribution to this work, please see the elders.



(continued from above) blessings (1 Timothy 5:5). "Intercessions [petitions, NAS]" was originally a combination of two words: a verb that meant "to have an intimate talk with someone," and a noun that was used of petitions submitted to a king. The commentator Carl Spain says this word "signifies to the Christian the high privilege of having an intimate talk with the ruler of the universe" (occurs again only in 1 Timothy 4:5). "Giving of thanks [thanksgivings, ESV]" are expressions of gratitude to God (1 Timothy 4:3-4). Our prayers can include any one of these emphases or a combination of a few or all of them. Christians have a great opportunity to communicate with God in Jesus' name! Let us receive this blessing and use it to God's glory and the betterment of our spiritual situation! ❤️ Brian

WW CC
Weeki Wachee Christian Camp

Take Advantage of the Opportunities to Attend Area Bible Camps

Weeki Wachee, June 12-18



Central Florida, June 26 - July 2

CFRC
CENTRAL FLORIDA BIBLE CAMP