



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 20 May 18 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.

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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What's the Difference Between The Church of Christ and Denominations?

Brian R. Kenyon

From time to time church members will be asked a question similar to the title of this article. There are many ways in which this can be answered, such as only the church of Christ started at the right time (Daniel 2:44), in the right place (Jerusalem, Luke 24:49 cf. Isaiah 2:3; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47), by the right person (Jesus, Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23), and with the right doctrine (Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 16:16-18). No denomination can claim any of these points! However, there is one single Bible verse that also totally exposes the difference between the church of Christ and all denominations.

Colossians 3:17

The most concise yet comprehensive way to answer the question is to accept and apply what Colossians 3:17 teaches. This verse reads, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Notice the three statements in the beginning of this verse that show how much an individual or a group of individuals calling themselves a church must do by the authority of Jesus Christ: (1) "whatever you do" leaves nothing out; (2) "in word or deed" includes everything, even thoughts, because they determine speech and actions; and (3) "do all" encompasses everything. Any one of these statements by itself would teach that Jesus' authority is needed for everything we do, but when the God-breathed Scriptures give that scope three times in one verse, there is an undeniable emphasis: *everything* we do, must be done with God's authority! Understanding and applying these three, practically synonymous, statements is the key to distinguishing the difference between denominations and the faithful church of Christ!

The phrase, "in the name of the Lord Jesus," means that everything a church or individual does must have the authority of Jesus (Acts 3:6; 9:29; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; James 5:10). He has been given "all authority" (Matthew 28:18). Anything a church does that cannot be supported by New Testament authority is sinful and thereby reflects denominationalism. For example, many denominational churches will claim their authority for using mechanical instruments of music in worship is found in David and the Psalms (81:2; 98:6; 149:3; 150:1-6). However, whether David was actually commanded to use them in worship or in some other setting is irrelevant to New Testament worship. Our authority must come from the New Testament. David and the Psalms are Old Testament. There is no authority for using instruments in worship today!

There is also a huge misconception in denominationalism that "in the Lord" simply means dedicating a certain action to the Lord, thereby making that

action right and acceptable to God. I have heard sincere members of denominations say, "God has blessed me with this ability to play the piano, so He must be pleased and honored when I use that talent in worship to Him, in His name." The problem with this kind of reasoning is that it is not humanity's place to determine what pleases God! It is God's call, and He has told us through His written word, the Bible, what pleases Him. We must worship God by what He says (John 4:23-24), not by what we desire or think is appropriate (Matthew 15:8-9; John 4:22; Acts 17:23; Colossians 2:20-23).

A person's claiming to do something "in Jesus' name" does not mean that he or she is truly doing something in Jesus' name (i.e., by His authority). Consider Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount:

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" ²³And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:21-23)

Notice how they called Jesus, "Lord, Lord," but that did not really mean He was their Lord (cf. Luke 6:46). Notice also how they claimed three times

to have done remarkable things "in Your name," yet Jesus responded, "I never knew you." Why? Obviously, because they did not truly follow the Father's commands (Matthew 7:21). What we think are good works may not be what God determines good works. Again, just because people claim to do something "in the name of the Lord" does not mean they are actually doing it with His authority!

Conclusion

There is a difference between denominational churches and the church of Christ, and, rest assured, that difference matters eternally! We must study the New Testament to know the truth about what the church is and what God actually authorizes for His church (2 Timothy 2:15). Equipped with that knowledge, we can discern whether a group of people calling themselves a church is just another denomination or truly the church for which Christ died (Acts 20:28), to which He has added the saved (Acts 2:47), and for whom He will come again to take and be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This discerning should also sometimes include those who assemble in buildings with "Church of Christ" lettered on their signs. The one test that will distinguish the true church from denominationalism is to see that "whatever [they] do in word or deed" is "all" done "in the name of the Lord." ♥ Brian

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

To Sin is to Miss The Mark

by Vince Daugherty

Growing up, one of my favorite Disney movies was Robin Hood. When an archery competition was announced Robin Hood couldn't help but participate even though he was an outlaw. He dressed in a disguise, but it was clear from the accuracy of his shooting, it could be none other than Robin Hood. People take note when an individual takes proper aim and hits the mark with great precision. To properly understand the Biblical term "sin," it is good for us to think in terms of archery. To sin means to miss the mark. Even as a child, there are some important lessons to be put into practice. (1) What bullseye are you aiming at? Being pleasing to God is our proper aim! (2) How are you doing at hitting the bullseye? Even when we miss the mark, we acknowledge it, make adjustments, and fire again! (3) What things are distracting you from hitting the bullseye? Things or people that distract you must be taken out of the way!

Senior Saints

by John McShane

I have a banner hanging on an outside wall with the following quote, "In a corner of my garden where the wildflowers grow, I sit and I admire how God has graced us so." As I sat in my backyard this morning, I tried to take in all that God had put before me. The warmth of the rising morning sun and the relative coolness of the morning with the dew still on the grass. I heard the birds serenading me and their friends. The bees were buzzing around the freshly opened flowers, searching for the nectar they need to flourish. The squirrels were chatting with each other as they greeted the new day. The puffy white clouds were silently and slowly passing by. The day started in a peaceful and perfect harmony that only God could provide. If all the people in the world had a morning as wonderful as I was having, it would be a far different world. One cannot help believing that there is a God when one can sit back and admire His handiwork. It was wonderful to see everything working so peacefully and perfectly in my own backyard. The words on that banner have absolute truth if one can sit and really admire God's handiwork. Hopefully, all of us can take the time to sit back and admire what God has given us.

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

(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.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Ellen Shearer, has fallen twice and not eating well, she is very weak and more confused.

Katrina Greene, Virginia Walker's daughter, had pneumonia and is recuperating at home.

Wadi Khoury is having back problems and will see the doctor on Monday.

RESPONSES

Neyome Brunson asked for prayers for her to better understand the Holy Spirit through further study of the Word.



Sisters Sending Sonshine 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.

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

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 19, 2021

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

Sunday, May 23, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Understanding the Holy Spirit, pt. 2"
 1 Cor. 6:17-20

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
*"A Church Pleasing to God:
 Avoiding Snares of the Soul"*
 1 Tim 6: 1-21

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Brian Kenyon
 Greeter Joyce Williams
 Song/prayer before class Ian Enamorado
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Alex Parramore
 Lord's Table John McShane
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Fife
 P.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table John McShane
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

Beginning Sunday, **June 6, 2021**, wearing masks will be optional. This policy may be adjusted if covid numbers in the congregation warrant such. Thank you for your patience!

We still request you stay home if you are not feeling well or have covid symptoms.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22, 2020. Thanks for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 2 \$5,679.00
May 9 \$9,199.00
May 16 \$8,224.00
Contribution Average \$7,274.47

Keep the Light On

My baby girl sleeps with two night lights and the tv on. I've never asked her, but I assume she's afraid of the dark. Every day that she's home, her room light is on regardless of the time of day until it's time for her to go to sleep. I thought to myself, hmmm...I should be like her, keeping my spiritual light on until it's time to go to sleep (die).

Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." So, I ask myself, how can I truly "see" and people see Christ in me if the word of Christ is not dwelling in me richly? (Colossians 3:16) I know from scripture that from the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matt 12:34). I also read that it's what comes out of the mouth that defiles a man (Matt 15:11)

Therefore, if my heart is filled abundantly with God's word, my mouth will speak God's word. My heart should be overflowing in His word to the point that my behavior, along with my words, shine brighter than any LED light ever made! Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." This is a promise that I want to enjoy, so I'll be keeping my light on.



Thank You for your great support of the Florida School of Preaching! It was great to have a graduation service with many visitors, almost like pre-covid days! May God bless these men!



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



Will Host A Singing Friday,
May 28, beginning @ 7:00 pm

310 Orange Street, Auburndale, FL 33823

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Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

BUT WHY DO YOU CALL
ME "LORD, LORD,"
AND DO NOT DO THE
THINGS WHICH I SAY?

LUKE 6:46