



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ

## MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 20 May 19, 2020

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
John McShane  
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](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

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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.

## Diving into the Book of Deuteronomy

*Hiram Kemp*

The first five books in the Old Testament are referred to by various names. Sometimes they are called the Torah, the Pentateuch, or simply the law. All five of these books were written by Moses to the Israelites who lived under the Law of Moses. There are similarities between the book of Exodus and the book of Deuteronomy. The book of Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law to the children of Israel. In fact, that is what Deuteronomy means: second law. The unbelieving Israelites that were twenty years old and older would die in the wilderness because of their faithlessness (Num. 14:26-35). The new generation under the leadership of Joshua would inherit Canaan (Deut. 1:37-38, 31:23). Moses gives the law in the book of Deuteronomy for the new generation and emphasizes several key themes that we would do well to take notice.

### Getting the Law in Your Heart

The Israelites were blessed to have the law from God. He had not communicated with any other nation in the same way He communicated with the descendants of Abraham (Deut. 4:7-8; Psa. 147:19-20). However, the Israelites needed to be sure that they knew what the law taught. They were commanded not to add to what Moses was giving them (Deut. 4:2). Furthermore, they were to teach their children incessantly so the law would not depart from them as they grew older (Deut. 6:6-9). All of these things were done in an effort to put the law in the safest place they could have it: in their hearts (Psa. 119:11). The law would inform the Israelites about how they were to serve God. They were to be sure to love him with all of their heart, soul, and might (Deut. 6:4-5). Moses would go on to stress the importance of walking in all of God's ways and loving him with all of their heart and soul (Deut. 10:12-13). Halfhearted devotion was what caused their parents to be cast aside in the wilderness (Heb. 3:17-19). If the new generation wanted to avoid the same fate, they would need to be sure to get the word in their hearts. Like Old Testament Israel, we need to allow God's Word to dwell richly within us (Col. 3:16). It is a blessing to have the Bible, but we need to ingest its message. One interesting thing to note is when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he responded with scripture each time (Matt. 4:1-11). Every passage that Jesus quoted was from the book of Deuteronomy (Deut. 8:3, 6:16, 6:13). As those under the new and better covenant, we need to get the law of Christ in our hearts and keep it there (Heb. 8:6-13).

### Obedience is Essential

Moses instructs Israel concerning the need to obey all that God had spoken to them (Deut. 13:4). They would be blessed if they obeyed the law and cursed if they disobeyed (Deut. 11:27-28). The blessings associated with obedience are enumerated in the book and so are the curses related to disobedience (Deut. 28-29). While Israel had formerly been characterized by their rebellion, Moses was encouraging the new generation to go in a different direction (Deut. 9:24) and not repeat the unfaithfulness of their ancestors. Under the leadership of Joshua, they were given a chance to comply with the conditions given by God.

It is unfortunate that many people view the Old Testament as something that was impossible to follow. It is correct that no one could perfectly keep the law except for Jesus Christ (Lk. 24:44). Yet, we should keep in mind that the problem was with the people and not with the law (Heb. 8:8). Moses writes in Deuteronomy of the ability the Israelites possessed to both know and follow the law he was giving them (Deut. 30:11-14).

Christians today reading Deuteronomy should be familiar with similar themes that appear in the New Testament. We are to be doers of the Word and not simply hearers (James 1:22-25). If we love Jesus, we will keep the commands that He has given us (John 14:15, 15:14). If we claim to know Jesus and refuse to obey His teachings, we are liars (1 John 2:3-5). Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9). We, too, have been given a law that we can follow. The gracious law of liberty that we live under is given to us for our good. As we read it and put it into our hearts, the proper response is doing what it says. Our obedience does not earn us anything just like theirs did not earn them anything. God gave Israel the land of Canaan out of His grace just like He gives us heaven through grace (Deut. 7:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5). Obedience is motivated by knowing what God requires of us. Once we become acquainted with the Word of God, we need to become acquainted with the God of the Word.

### God is Good

At the heart of the book of Deuteronomy is the picture of a good God. The book can be broken down into three sermons given by Moses (Deut. 1-4, 5-26, 27-30). In these sermons, Moses tells Israel their responsibilities, but he also tells them about the God to whom they are responsible.

As a young person you might think, how can I serve God when I am so little. One of the very best ways young people can serve is through the joy which you can bring. Proverbs 17:22 says that "a merry heart does good, like medicine." When you get a chance to spend time with your friends and family you have the ability to brighten up a room with a smile, laughter, and a merry spirit. God is the ultimate joy giver. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to give hope to those who were in need. Nehemiah 8:10 says that "the joy of the Lord is your strength." Everyone wants to be around a joyful person, they make everyone else feel better. Psalm 126:2 talks about laughter as being contagious and people take notice. "Our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'" When we share our joy, the world takes notice. So be merry, and serve the Lord.

God had been faithful to the covenant He made with Israel (Deut. 7:8) and was giving them all of the blessing that He promised to give them (Deut. 15:6). In chapter 32, they were receiving a leader chosen by God to direct their steps who would detail all of the wonderful attributes of God. Moses charged Israel with memorizing the song and keeping it in their heart (Deut. 32:46-47). We can never have too many reminders about the goodness of God (Rom. 11:22). The God who is capable of punishment is also one who delights in blessing us. Though Moses was not going to the promised land, he still boasted in the greatness of God.

God's greatness was seen as He was looking to the future. The book of Deuteronomy points past the time of Moses and Joshua. It points to a time when God would raise up a prophet like Moses who everyone would need to hear (Deut. 18:15-18). In the second sermon in the book of Acts, Peter says Jesus is the prophet Moses was talking about (Acts 3:22-26). God is good because He sent a Messiah who could lead us into the eternal promised land (Heb. 4:8-11). As you read the book of Deuteronomy, see God as the God who gives second chances. He not only gave second chances to a new generation under the old law, He gives second chances to people today living under the law of Christ. We can approach God through Jesus and be welcomed into fellowship with Him. We need to internalize His message, obey as best we can, and remember His goodness. Deuteronomy ends with Moses being described as a prophet who uniquely knew God face to face (Deut. 34:10-12). In the New Testament through Jesus, we as Christians know God intimately. One day through Jesus' atoning sacrifice, we, too, will see Him face to face (Rev. 22:3-4).

### Senior Saints

John McShane

#### Some facts about older folks:

We get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children.

We don't like any filth or dirty language on TV, in the movies or social media.

We have moral courage, personal integrity, and stand for what is right in the eyes of the God.

*"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."*

Psalm 21:24

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

## PRAAYER LIST

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

**Others:** George French (Kenny & Reba's son, pancreatic cancer); Roselyn Roberts (friend of Darlene Thompson); 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); Larry Lloyd (cancer); Phil Sweeney (shingles, friend of Brenda Mask); Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland (Ruby Lewis' nephew, cancer).

## RESPONSES

Cierra Edwards requested prayers while going through some counseling.

Wadi Khoury requested prayers while making some big decisions in his life.

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Linda McShane is home recovering from her successful cataract surgery.

Ellen Shearer's living facility has tested negative for the virus a second time. They still cannot have visitors. She does not see well enough to read cards, but she can take phone calls. Thanks for everyone's prayers, Wayne and Anita Shearer.

Margaret Norman had a nuclear stress test Friday morning and follow up with pre-op tests on June 1st for surgery on June 5th for a blocked carotid artery.

## Thank you

Dear Church family, I want to thank you for all the prayers, calls, and cards you sent at the passing of my sister, Peggy Boyles. You are all an inspiration to me. I appreciate my family at South Florida Ave.

I love you all, Virginia Walker

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Rachel & I would like to thank everyone who helped us out moving into our home on Monday. We are grateful to God for our SFA family and excited to be closer to you! Allen & Rachel Grimes

## 5th Sunday Collection

As a reminder, the next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be May 31.

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.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### MAY

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker  
All worship assignments are postponed.

Sunday, May 24, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"Pressing Toward the Goal" Phil. 3:12-21

6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Don Iverson  
Mission Report

Live stream will continue until further notice.

## COVID 19 UPDATE

With State of Florida civil authorities' giving businesses the okay to reopen at 50% and in accordance with CDC guidelines, the eldership is allowing the church building to open-up at 50% occupancy beginning Wednesday night, May 20, for all regular church services. We are still asking those who are not feeling well and those who consider assembling at the building too risky for themselves and/or their families to stay at home. All services will still be live streamed on YouTube as they have been since March 22.

If or when you are interested in attending services at the building, please let the eldership know by emailing or calling the office.

We continue to covet your prayers.

David Anderson      Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon      Bobby Sheumaker  
- Elders -

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 3 .....	\$8,485.75
May 10 .....	\$8,483.00
May 17 .....	\$5,503.00
Contribution Average .....	\$6,997.22



*Women of the Word*

## You Can't Pour from an Empty Cup

~ Stephanie Kenyon ~



We struggle to take care of others when we don't take care of ourselves. "You can't pour from an empty cup." Women are naturally nurturers. It's just what we do. So we can understand the need to fill our cups.

However, Christian women have to be careful how they do this.

When I fill my cup with myself or things of this world, it is always running out, and it has corrupted the vessel. At that point, what I pour out is of inferior quality. But when I fill my cup with God, it overflows wonderful things, yet never runs out. God is THE neverending source of nourishment. God's Word is where we should turn to fill our cups. He is the source of comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4), wisdom (James 1:5), hope (Romans 15:13), and love (1 John 4:7-8) from which we should be drawing.

The optimist sees the cup as half full. The pessimist sees it as half empty. But how does the Christian see the cup? She should see her cup overflowing with blessings... after all, she is the cup.

## How God Used Animals in Scripture

A Fish swallowed Jonah (Jonah 1:17)

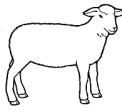


A Donkey talked to Balaam (Numbers 22:28)

Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:6-11)

God sent frogs throughout Egypt in the plagues (Exodus 8:5-7)

Lambs were slaughtered during the Passover (Exodus 12)



A dove signified the end of the flood (Genesis 8:12)

Locust came as a plague on Israel (Joel 2:1-11)

Jesus is the Lamb slain for our sins (John 1:29)



Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5)

[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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