



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

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Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Rick Kenyon
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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.

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Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
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Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

Are You "Living Sacrifice" Material?

Brian R. Kenyon

Paul gave one of the most encompassing expectations for each member of the Lord's church when he wrote, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Clearly, Christians must present themselves as living sacrifices to God! The motivation for this conduct is the "mercies of God." God is a God of mercy, and His people should also appreciate and reflect that (cf. 2 Cor. 1:3; Phil. 2:1; Col. 3:12-14). Christians' "bodies" are singled out here as what are to be presented as "living sacrifices." Before we became Christians, we served sin with our bodies (Rom. 1:24; 6:6, 12; 7:24; 8:13). Our whole being, including our bodies (and souls and spirits), acted as a "heart" unit in rendering obedience and service to God (cf. Rom. 6:17). When our fleshly selves are wholly given to God, then our entire being is given to God (cf. Rom. 6:11-13). This truth is perhaps part of why God chose circumcision as a sign of the covenant under Mosaic Law (i.e., if that part of a male's body were set apart for God, then his whole body would be!).

A Death Must Occur Before A Sacrifice Can Be "Living"

Like a literal sacrifice where an animal was killed, for a person to become a "living sacrifice" a death has to occur. This death is a death to sin through baptism (Rom. 6:1-7). Unlike a literal sacrifice, when we become "living sacrifices," a new (spiritual) life is gained that is to be lived in dedication to God (cf. Rom. 6:13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 2:20). In Romans 12:1, Paul described this dedication by two terms. First, a "living sacrifice" is "holy," which means set apart to or by God; consecrated (Rom. 7:12; 11:16; 16:16). The plural form of "holy" is usually translated "saints" (Rom. 1:7; 8:27; 12:13; 15:25-26, 31; 16:2, 15). "Holy" also carries the idea of without blemish or defect, and without defilement from sin. Anything taken out of common use and devoted to God is holy. Thus, the Christian's body is to be set apart for God's service! Second, a "living sacrifice" is "acceptable to God," where the word "acceptable" means pleasing (Rom. 12:2; 14:18; 2 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:10; Phil. 4:18; Col. 3:20; Titus 2:9).

Being a "living sacrifice" is the only logical response in service to God for all He has done for the Christian in saving him or her from sin! "Reasonable service" has been translated in a variety of ways, some of which connect it with worship, such as "spiritual service of worship" (NAS) or "spiritual worship" (ESV). The word "reasonable [spiritual, ASV]" is from *logikos* (λογικός), the same word from which English gets "logic." The word "service" is from the third most common word translated "worship" (*latreia*, λατρεία), but in the majority of its occurrences, it is translated by a form "serve" (Mt. 4:10; Lk. 1:74; Acts 7:7). It is derived from a word that literally meant "wages," and then came to mean "work for wages." By New Testament times the word was used to denote service in general, including that done in the name of religion. This "religious" service may include that rendered to false gods (Acts 7:42, ASV; Rom. 1:25) or that rendered to the true God (Mt. 4:10; 2 Tim. 1:3; Rev. 22:3). Because worship is a part of religious service, this word can carry the idea of "worship" in some contexts (Acts 7:42; 24:14; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 10:2). However, because in some contexts it may be

translated "worship" does not mean that all service is worship. Worshiping God "in spirit and in truth" involves having the right attitude ("spirit") of love, humility, and reverence, while fulfilling the God-authorized avenues ("truth") of worship. The only five avenues for worship God authorizes are singing (Col. 3:16), praying (Acts 2:42), preaching/teaching (Mt. 15:9), financial contribution (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and the Lord's supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Service includes a host of things, including taking care of widows (Acts 6:1-7). Worship and service both require the right attitude of love, humility, and reverence and both are necessary to please God, but worship and service are not the same! While we must avoid the extreme that says worship includes all service a Christian does, we must also avoid the extreme that says worship is only that which takes place in the church building.

Are You Presenting Your Body To God As A "Living Sacrifice"?

Having considered the passage, let us look into applying the principles in our lives. A generation or two ago, the petition in public prayer was often heard, "Lord, use us in your service." The willingness to allow ourselves to fulfill that prayer captures the essence to applying Romans 12:1. We must be willing to sacrifice our bodies, our time, and our talents

in service to God! Not just when it is convenient ... because it hardly ever is in our busy schedules. Besides, if something is convenient, can it really be a sacrifice? There are souls in need, even lost souls whose salvation could be attained if only Christians would take seriously their God-intended status of being "living sacrifices." Some church members may be too "conformed to this world" to present their bodies a living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:2).

There are several areas in the work of almost any local church where sacrificial church members could make a huge difference in reaching the lost and edifying the saved. Many congregations have members who need rides to church services. Would a "living sacrifice" never volunteer to help in transporting church members, especially if the ones needing a ride were on the driving member's route to the church building? Many congregations have a need for members, who may already be organized into teams, to help clean-up after fellowship meals or other church events. Would a "living sacrifice" refuse to take a turn to help so the same people are not always the ones staying late for clean-up?

Conclusion

To be "living sacrifice" material, we must truly be crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). In what ways do we show God we are His "living sacrifice"? ♥ *Brian*

Youth Group

Vince Daugherty

LOST & FOUND (LUKE 15)

LOST

1. Sometimes things can become lost because of our own carelessness. In Luke 15 Jesus tells about a flock of 100 sheep and one goes missing. Sheep are not all that smart so it can be easy for one to wander. People, like sheep, are not always so bright. Even though we may never have intentions of wandering from the truth, it happens.
2. Sometimes things can become lost because of the carelessness of others. In Luke 15 Jesus tells another parable about a woman who lost one of her coins in a set of ten. People, like coins, have inherent value. It is a tragedy, but sometimes people can be overlooked, forgotten about, or misplaced.
3. Sometimes people can become lost because of their choice to be lost. In Luke 15 Jesus tells a tragic story about a younger brother who chose to become lost all by himself. We too can have times when we make bad choices and choose to walk out on our fathers. Even though the young man's father loved him, he let his young son lose himself.

FOUND

1. Though things can become lost, the good shepherd will not abandon the lost sheep. He goes into the wild to carefully search for the animal. When he finds it he rejoices, he and his friends. So too is the rejoicing over one soul who is restored.
2. Though valuables can become lost there is opportunity to find them again. The woman in the parable lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and carefully searches till the coin is recovered. The woman's diligence and hard work are paid off so she can rejoice and celebrate with her friends at what was found. So too is the celebration and rejoicing over a soul who is restored.
3. Though people can sometimes make poor decisions and walk away from the truth, God does not give up on them. In the parable, the father waits for his younger son to come to his senses. When he sees him returning from a far way off, he races to greet him, hugs and kisses him, and restore his place of honor as his son. However, the joy and celebration is dampened. The elder son refuses to rejoice. The right response to something being lost and found is to celebrate. Sometimes this is hard, but if we rejoice when our possessions and things are lost and found, should we not celebrate all the more when a soul moves from lost to found?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 George Davis - eye procedure
 Virginia Walker - lung infection

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Bill Long - health
 Toney Wilson - health
 Darlene and Brenda - traveling

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **May 29, 2022.**

if you would like to give additional funds at other times, 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.

Update on New Fellowship Hall/FSOP Construction

In conjunction with our 5th Sunday "building fund" contribution, an update is in order. First, the eldership thanks Tyler Anderson, our deacon serving as the "point man," for all his continued work and sacrifice to keep up with this project! So far, we have one preliminary drawing, and we are currently working on two other designs to see what would work best for both SFA and FSOP, both in terms of functionality and financial sense. Once the eldership agrees on an ideal floor plan, an artist rendition and 3D drawings will be completed and presented to the congregation. SFA will continue the building fund contributions while FSOP conducts a fund-raising campaign. After a comprehensive cost analysis is completed of the projected construction costs, the elders will reevaluate this project and inform the congregation. We covet your prayers as we move forward with this project and the additional projects currently being worked on. In the meantime, we are currently working running under budget for our daily work and operation. Although our country is experiencing extremely high inflation and things sometimes seem bleak, we know God can see us through (Eph. 3:20-21)! If all of us could reevaluate our personal budgets and, if possible, look at increasing our weekly giving to help maintain our weekly budgets, the Lord would bless us to continue our work and operation as we have. Let us continue to encourage one another in love and good works! **—the eldership**

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Devo Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer Vince Daugherty

Sunday, May 29, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Red Sea Crossing Josh Cantrell
 Exodus 14:13-17

6:00 P.M.

"My Hour" Vince Daugherty
 John 12:23-27

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) B. Sheumaker
 Greeters Brunson
 Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Kyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr
 Closing Prayer George Davis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Ian Enamorado
 Scripture reading/Prayer Cam'ron Bailey
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr
 Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle
 Greeters Brunson

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Kyle Bingle
 Devo Kyle Faneuf
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

May

27 - Last day of school
 27 - Sing, Orange Street
 29 - Teachers' mtg, 4:30
 29 - Young men-led pm service

6 - Senior Saints class
 11-18 - Mission trip, SD
 15 - Ladies' class begins
 18 - Men's breakfast, Haines City
 26 - CFBC begins

June

1 - Quarterly challenge
 5-8 - VBS

July

16 - Summer cookout

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

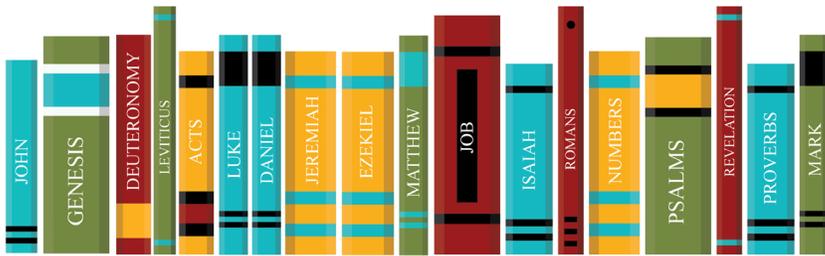
May 8 \$5,700.00
 May 15 \$6,161.00
 May 22 \$5,038.00
Contribution Average \$6,355.03
Weekly budget \$7,663.43

I have always loved singing praises. As a small child I would sit on my grandfather's lap in the pews of my hometown congregation, and be comforted by the familiar voices crying out to God in unison. When I was small I thought the sound was so beautiful, but as an adult I am often overwhelmed by the beauty in the lyrics.

There is something so intimate and vulnerable about blending your voice with that of another person. I think God intended it to be that way.

True worship requires vulnerability – a baring of one's soul. It connects us as brothers and sisters. It requires an intimacy that we cannot express in any other way. The creation openly submitting to and recognizing the awe inspiring power of its Creator, bonded together by the recognition and admission of our frailty and need for love, hope, and guidance – our need for God in our brokenness.

"My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed." Psalm 71:23



the B-I-B-L-E that's the book for me

SFA VBS 2022

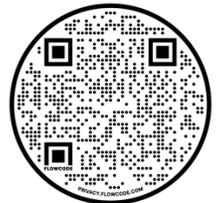
**Nightly classes available for
pre-school to adults**

Sunday - 6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Monday - Wednesday
7:00 - 8:30 pm**



Scan to pre-register
or go to
our website



www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653
Return Service Requested

And this is eternal life,
that they know you,
the only true God, and
Jesus Christ whom you
have sent.

John 17:3



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.