

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 69 No.21 05-24-16

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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.

## 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.

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IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

## PREACHING

*Paul R. Mobley, Sr.*

**P**reaching is delivery of God's Word in segments, or a bit at a time, even though each delivery should be as complete as required to relate God's Word and understanding of it for the subject, and for those wanting salvation. Paul warned, "...for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10). And he further stated, "But I certify you brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11-12). Today, the revelation of Jesus Christ is the New Testament, and the whole Bible.

Is there any better example for preachers today than Paul? If we say, "Yes, Jesus," then listen to Jesus, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (John 12:48-50). Thus, it is that all church leaders, and the preacher, should follow the conduct of Paul and Jesus, in word and deed.

Preaching can thus be defined as delivering the Word of God. Many churches today do not have evangelistic meetings, or Gospel meetings, replacing them with Lectureships, which are good also. Most do have preaching on Sunday morning and night, and sometimes on Wednesday night. Preaching is also teaching. And all Christians can at times be teaching, or in a less formatted manner, preaching. So the foregoing words are for all Christians.

Neither is preaching restricted to Sunday or Wednesday night. It can be at any time and anyplace an opportunity is presented. Paul instructed the preacher Timothy, "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2). Paul is telling Timothy to be ready, and to preach, or teach, at every opportunity.

All Christians can teach, and so each should be ready to teach, and teach when an opportunity arises. Church leaders, preachers, teachers and Christians should be ready to teach God's Word at any time, anywhere. And being prepared means having a good and growing knowledge of the New Testament. And that means the church should be teaching the whole Bible.

# The God Who Sees

*Robert Johnson*

“No one is perfect,” the saying goes, and that saying is true. James reminded us of this when he wrote, “For we all stumble in many ways” (James 3:2). However, there is a world of difference between those who stumble, realize it, seek forgiveness and try to do better, and those who are oblivious to it. One of Satan’s greatest tools is that of self-deception, where one no longer reviews the matters of one’s heart. When the Hebrew writer warned of being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13), it applies as much to refusing to honestly examine oneself, as it does to lying, stealing, immorality or any other “obvious” sin that one may see in another.

It is amazing the lengths to which one will go to justify oneself, when the heart gets hardened by sin and honesty with oneself is abandoned. An action that is condemned in others is quite alright when practiced by oneself. Some of the wildest reasons for forsaking the assembly are offered, that surely if that person heard someone else say, would be immediately rejected. The motives one offers for not being involved in the work of service, which sound so logical to oneself in the context of the church, are obviously rejected as unfit to be offered to one’s employer. The logic behind selfish behavior, which makes one unconscious of how inappropriate it is when done by oneself, is disdained when heard from others. It is all too common to practice things in one’s own life that is readily seen and condemned in others when practiced by them.

If such behavior is pointed out to such a one, where one is faced with the reality of his or her own discrepancies, it is easy to attack the other for their failings, or to appeal to God’s grace. Phrases such as, “I’m glad I’m going to be judged by God and his grace, not you,” are often hurled back. No doubt some have arrogantly attacked people gripped with sin, but some have been arrogantly attacked when love was their true motive of heart for others. This is how sin seeks to keep itself entrenched in people’s lives.

It’s true, we all need God’s grace, and all want to be judged by him mercifully. Without grace, no one would be acceptable before God. And yet, grace isn’t a covering for sin, but its cure. “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” (Romans 6:1-2). Paul goes on to say, “What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness” (Romans 6:15-18).

This takes us back to a willingness to be honest with ourselves, truly, genuinely, completely. Without honesty of the heart, we allow sin to take root and harden us, deceiving us to who we are, what our motives are, and what we ultimately do. Paul tells us, “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Corinthians 13:5). More honest soul-searching will lead us closer to God’s will, his grace and mercy, his life. To harden our hearts and stop up our ears as to who we really are will only disappoint in the end. “By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked” (1 John 2:5-6).

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Bea Pratt was home not feeling well, but is doing better now. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Jim Turner, Jacquelin Dopwell, 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 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, Alyssa Buckner, Steve Walling, (former F.S.O.P student), and Wayne Shearer, (member at Bartow). Keep all of these in your prayers.

## Upcoming Events

**June 4th:** Everyone is invited to join us to help celebrate Kyle Bingle's graduation. You can drop in anytime between 2-4 p.m. here in the fellowship hall.

**June 5th:** Fellowship In Service after evening services. Please bring finger foods.

**June 11th:** Ladies Day at the Carolina Ave. Church of Christ in Avon Park, FL starting at 8:00 a.m. See the flyer or slide for more details.

**June 18th:** V.B.S. here at South Florida Ave. It will be a one day program from 9:00-12:30. Please save the date and bring family and friends. The theme this year is "Biblical Love." Please come join us!

## Hither, Thither and Yon

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, We have left for North Carolina and wish you all a good summer. We will miss you all, Please keep us in your prayers.

In Christian love, Ron & Judy Ford

## Transportation Needed

Elizabeth Tubbs needs transportation to and from services. She lives close to the intersection of Memorial and South Florida Ave. If anyone traveling that way to church services can help, please call and let the office know.

## Visitors

Tania Portelles-Driggs and Louise Stewart.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### June

Bobby Sheumaker ..... **Table** ..... C.J. Grimes  
 Kyle Williams ..... **Assist** ..... Tucker Sweeney

### 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** ..... David Anderson  
**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

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

### Sunday, June 5, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... Longfellows  
**Att. Cards** ..... Paul and Ian  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Open & Close Building** ..... David Anderson

Wed. June 8, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Anderson

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 01.....	\$5,601.20
May 08.....	\$4,910.50
May 15.....	\$5,253.00
May 22.....	\$4,306.00
<b>Contribution Average.....</b>	<b>\$5,054.18</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget.....</b>	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# Purpose of Prayer

Paul writes, "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 that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:1-3). In last week's bulletin, we profiled prayer as per verses 1-2a. The remaining portion of the verses gives us two purposes of prayer. First, we are to pray so that we may be free to live our Christianity. Externally, we are to lead a "quiet and peaceable life." This tranquility is not dependent on an unrealistic exemption from persecution (cf. 2 Timothy 1:8; 3:12). Rather, it is a state in which persecution does not thwart our carrying out of God's work. An incident in Paul's life illustrates this well. When the uproar in Ephesus over his preaching about idolatry was finally quieted, the apostle was able to exhort the Christians and continue carrying out his ministry (Acts 19:23-41). Ironically, on many occasions, it was only through a civil authority's action against Paul's opponents that he was able to carry on his ministry, even if under arrest (cf. Acts 21:27-40; 28:16, 23-31). Internally, the life for which prayer aims should be conducted with the characteristics of "godliness" and "reverence [honesty, KJV]." An externally "quiet and peaceable life" coupled with the matured internal qualities of "godliness and reverence" will keep Christians from the temptations that often arise from extreme conditions (Proverbs 30:8-9). Second, God's people are to pray in order to please God. The antecedent to "this," in "this is good and acceptable" (1 Timothy 2:3a), is the activity of prayers being *(continued below)*



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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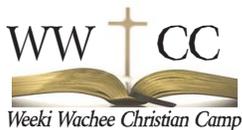


The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



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.

## Edifying Camp Opportunities This Summer



**Weeki Wachee, June 12-18**



**Central Florida, June 26 - July 2**

*(continued from above)* made "for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Christians' being concerned for "all men," as evidenced by their prayers, is a well pleasing reflection of the God they serve (cf. Titus 3:1-7). "Good" is from a common Greek word, generally meaning good, right, proper, fitting, and is used throughout the letters to Timothy and Titus (1 Timothy 1:8, 18; 3:1, 7, 13; 4:4, 6; 5:10, 25; 6:12-13, 18-19; 2 Timothy 1:14; 2:3; 4:7; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:8, 14). The word translated "acceptable [pleasing, ESV]" means pleasing to God (see also 1 Timothy 5:4), and, of course, is the goal of all Christian life, not just prayer! May we be a people of prayer and dedication! ❤️ *Brian*

**VBS** Theme: **Biblical Love**  
 Lessons: God's Love for Us  
 Our Love for God  
 Saturday, **June 18** Our Love for One Another