

Who Is the Real Enemy?

In Ephesians 6:11-12, Paul said that we are to “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” The devil, along with his “wiles,” is the real enemy Christians face. The word “devil” means accuser. The devil accuses God’s people (Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5; Revelation 12:10). The term “Satan” means adversary, which is one who stands opposed, in this case, to God (cf. 1 Peter 5:8). The devil is real and powerful. He is also referred to as the “prince of this world” (John 12:31); the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4); and the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). Yet at the same time, he appears as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). The devil is subtle and cunning. The word “wiles” means scheming craftiness, or, as the same Greek word is translated in Ephesians 4:14, “cunning craftiness.” This is an indication of the difficulty of the fight. We are not up against the mere strength of men, but against the strategies of the deceptive one—we must be aware of Satan’s tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11). The “principalities ... powers ... spiritual hosts ...” reinforce the enemy’s spiritual nature. Are we well enough informed about this enemy to recognize his wiles? Are we equipped with the armor necessary to win through Christ? May we all prepare ourselves “to stand against the wiles of the devil”! ❤️ *Brian*



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1807 South Florida Avenue
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

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

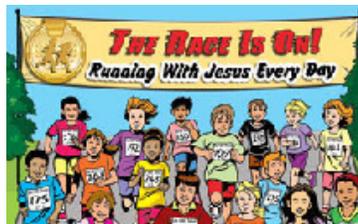
Sunday, June 8 We will have a Lads to Leaders “half day,” beginning at 3:00 p.m. We will sign up for events and work on the year ‘round activities. We will study Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians!
Saturday, June 21 Our monthly youth devotional and activity will be hosted by the Kenyons.

Summer Quarter Youth Classes

Beginning Sunday, June 1, the following classes and teachers are scheduled. Thanks for your help teaching!

- Pre-school** Jeanelle Thrower & Melissa Craft
- 3rd-5th Grade** Jenna Hendrix (Sunday & Wednesday)
- 6th-12th Grade** David Williams (Sunday)
Stacey Paulin (Wednesday)

If you have any questions or comments, see Brian



VBS June 22-26

Chad Tagtow will be teaching our teenage classes and leading the VBS songs! Don’t miss it!

- Lap 1: Train for Success** —“Put on God’s Armor” (Eph. 6:10-19)
Adult class teacher: Robert Williams (6th Street)
- Lap 2: Find Your Stride** —“Help Others” (Luke 10:25-37)
Adult class teacher: Eric Dawkins (6th Street)
- Lap 3: Win a Medal** —“Seek Good Friends” (1 Samuel 18-20)
Adult class teacher: Eric Dawkins (6th Street)
- Lap 4: Set a Record** —“Always Do Your Best” (Matthew 25:14-19)
Adult class teacher: Bob Bauer (Orange Street)
- Lap 5: Endure to the Finish** —“Be Like Jesus” (Luke 2:40-52)
Adult class teacher: Mike Elledge (Palm Harbor)

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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Congratulations 2014 Graduates

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

SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....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 PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net



Heidi Bingle

Heidi will graduate from Lakeland Christian School on June 2. At LCS she was a varsity cheerleader for four years and was captian of her senior year. She was also in the National Honor Society. Her plans are to attend Florida College in the Fall.



Haley French

Haley is a granddaughter of Kenny and Reba French. She has already graduated from Harding University, majoring in early elementary education. She has been teaching fourth grade in a neighboring town. She plans on earning her master's degree in 2015.



Clayton Wyatt

Clayton is a grandson of Chuck and Evelyn Wyatt. He will be graduating from Lake Gibson High School with very high honors. He will attend the University of South Florida in the Fall. His future plans after that include medical school and a career in that field.



Briana Coleman

Briana graduates May 30. As a very accomplished homeschooler, she was involved in many student and foreign language clubs as well as sports activities. She has begun a career in fashion with her own clothing line. She plans to earn a bachelor's degree abroad.



Darren Lester

Darren is a grandson of Jim and Wanda Turner. He graduates from Brandon High School on May 29. He will attend New Mexico Military Institute on a University of South Florida football scholarship. He plans to advance and play football for USF.

The best advice we can give is, as Solomon said, "Rejoice ... in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:9). Enjoy life, and live for God!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Since We Are Christians

By Brian R. Kenyon

Paul opened Colossians 3 with the statement, “If ye then be risen with Christ” (Col. 3:1, KJV). The word “if” has the meaning here of “since”—*since* you have been risen with Christ! To be “risen with Christ” is a reference to baptism. Earlier, Paul said the Colossians were “Buried with him [Christ] in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” (Col. 2:12). What Paul, then, was saying in Colossians 3:1-4 is that *since* we are Christians, there are three things that characterize our lives.

We Must Be About Our Father’s Business

Jesus used the term, “I must be about my Father’s business” when He was twelve years old and His parents found Him in Jerusalem as He astonished the people with His knowledge and wisdom (Lk. 2:41-52). The same idea must characterize our life. Paul said, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

In these verses, Paul gave two ways that we go about our Father’s business. First, we go about this by seeking the things of God (Col. 3:1). Jesus said that we are to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Mt. 6:33). The Hebrews writer declared, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

Second, we go about the Father’s business by focusing our mind on the “things above” (Col. 3:2). The verb translated “set your affection [mind, NKJ]” means to have focus on. This would refer to an inner disposition, while “seek” in the previous verse indicates an outward pursuit. The “things above” are heavenly things, such as the characteristics mentioned in 3:12-17, and they stand in contrast to the “things on the earth” (Col. 2:16-23).

We Have Complete Security

Since we are Christians, our life is completely secure. This is not to say that our physical lives will not suffer (2 Tim. 3:12), nor that we cannot lose our salvation (Gal. 5:4). Rather, this security is a spiritual comfort. Paul said, “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). Again, Paul reminded us that we are “dead,” which is a reference to baptism and what that did concerning our former life (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-6). The word “hid” means to conceal, cover, keep secret (Heb. 11:23). It is in the perfect tense, which means that this being hid has taken place in the past (at baptism) with continuing, present results. This verse reveals three things that are involved in our life being hid in Christ. First, we have identity with Christ. When God sees us, He sees Christ. We became one with Christ at baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27). We should thus be able to say with Paul, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). Second, we have secrecy with Christ in the sense of being hidden away in Him. In the first century people would hide their valuables in a secret place to keep them from being taken (cf. Mt. 13:44). When we are hidden in Christ, Satan cannot take us, unless, of course, we allow it (cf. Jas. 4:7). Third, we have safety. Because we are “with Christ” and “in God,” we are doubly protected.

We Are Headed for Glory

Because we are about our Father’s business and because we keep ourselves hidden in Christ, when He comes again, we shall be with Him forever. Paul affirmed, “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:4). Note what already is—“your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3) and what shall be—“then shall ye also appear with him in glory”! The “appearance” of Christ is a reference to His second coming (Heb. 9:27-28). Christ’s coming will be our glorification. Paul elsewhere says, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. ¹⁸For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:16-18).

Only faithful Christians are about their Father’s business, have spiritual security, and are headed for glory. Since we are Christians, these things must characterize us, but how is our life? Are we risen with Christ? Is our life hid with Christ in God? Will we be glorified with Christ when He comes again? Let’s make sure we stay faithful!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bruce Longfellow is having some health problems. TaLeah Anderson, Bernetta Green, Jacqueline Dopwell, Sam Bolding, Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, JoAnn Hoback, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix, Danny Stephens & Lewis Tillis.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

Others: Vera Jackson, Chris Billingsly, Mariza Johnson, Marilyn Eick, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

Upcoming Events

June 1st: - "Fellowship in Service" after our evening worship service.

June 7th: - Ladies Seminar at the Carolina Ave. Church of Christ in Avon Park. The topic will be "Am I my sister's keeper." For more information, a flyer is posted on the bulletin board.

June 21st: - The Men's Breakfast will be held at Orange Street in Auburndale at 8:00 am.

June 21st: - Monthly devotion & Activity will be hosted by Brian & Jagie Kenyon.

June 22nd-26th: - Our Vacation Bible School here at South Florida Avenue. All children and adults are invited to come. There will be classes for all ages.

Visitors

Adam Black, Barbara Farmer, Cathy Garland, Brian & Zach. Eddie McRae, Corinne Titus.



When Planning Vacation . . .

make sure to include the Lord! Make an effort to find a place to worship and don't forget the church at home with your regular contribution!

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Rushing To Decisions"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** Bobby Sheumaker
Jimmy Sweeney..... **Assist**..... David Williams

June 1, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Casey Paulin
Prayer..... Tyler Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jason Hendrix
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer Jim Turner
Greeters The Anderson Family
Att. Cards..... Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wed. June 4, 2014

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Casey Paulin
Closing Prayer David Williams

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

Sunday, June 8, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Antonio Martin
Prayer..... Phil Fife

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jason Hendrix
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Casey Paulin
Closing Prayer John McShane

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Chuck Wyatt
Closing Prayer David Williams
Greeters The Bingle Family
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wed. June 11, 2014

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

May 04 **\$4,733.60**
May 11 **\$4,010.36**
May 18 **\$4,219.01**
May 25 **\$4,122.00**
Contribution Average **\$4,438.53**
2014 Weekly Budget..... **\$4,256.38**