



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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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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Florida School of Preaching
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Huron, SD Mission Work

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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.

THE PATH TO DISCOVERING HOW TO FORGIVE

Joshua Cantrell

When Jesus lived on this earth, his life was the truest example for us to follow (1 Pet. 2:21). He taught people how to love, live, and forgive. God would never ask us to do something, he will not do. He gives us examples of how forgiveness can be taught, and how it can be lived. Yes, forgiveness is something that must be lived out in our lives. Jesus forgave many, ultimately so that they would turn from their sins and come back to him. The path to discovering how to forgive begins and ends with God. There have been moments in our lives where we have needed forgiveness, and times when had to forgive others. Paul states, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32). Forgiveness is not about us. It is ultimately about God. While the path to forgiveness can seem so far off, with God it is ever near.

THE GREAT GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

When we mark out the first three and the last three letters of the word, we are left with one word, given. The greatest gift the world has been given is forgiveness. When we read about the fall of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3), we see the shame that came over them. They even decided to hide from God (Gen. 3:10). God extended his forgiveness to them, though there was punishment for their sins. His grace was given freely in the form of his son (Gen. 3:15). The Bible in its entirety is about forgiveness and the redemption of mankind. We understand what grace is because we understand what being forgiven entails. We understand forgiveness because we understand what love is. Each of these goes hand in hand with our redemption from sin.

The Psalmist declares, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps. 32:1). Our sins can be covered because of the Lord's sacrifice on the cross. All sins meet and end at the cross of Jesus. Those in the Old Testament are justified (Rom. 4:3), because Jesus "nailed the one way to the cross" (Col. 1:14). Our souls have been stained with sin, but they have been "bought back" or "justified" through Jesus. Understanding the sacrifice of Jesus helps us understand the necessity of having our sins forgiven. We have been given, forgiveness. We then show others this forgiveness, or "grace," we have been given and pray they will accept it as well.

WHEN ARE WE FORGIVEN?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's way to save man today (Rom. 1:16-17). When we obey the Gospel, Jesus adds us to His church (Acts. 2:47), where we began to live a transformed life (Rom. 12:1-2). This life has been "given" to us. As Jesus spoke with Nicodemus, he asked "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (Jn. 3:4). Nicodemus was looking at it from the fleshly side of things, while Jesus was talking about the Spiritual. Jesus responded, "Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3:5).

When we are baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21; Rev. 1:5), our sins are forgiven and we rise a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). God's way of salvation is the only one that is revealed in Scripture. When the eunuch from Ethiopia "understood" what Philip preached to him (Acts 8:27-35), he responded to that in baptism (Acts. 8:38). When we come out of the water, we are considered forgiven by God. Not before, but only after (Rom. 6:3-4).

In Acts 9, Saul of Tarsus was blinded for three days (Acts. 9:9). Saul was penitent. He was honest, but he still had to be baptized to be saved from his sins (Acts. 22:16). When we understand how God has forgiven us of our sins, we should be more prone to extend that to others as well. The path to discovering how to forgive must begin with God and end with it making its way into our hearts. It's not enough just to read the Bible. It also needs to resonate in our hearts, and be displayed in our lives.

JOSEPH AND FORGIVENESS

The Bible reveals for us in Genesis 37 that Jacob “loved Joseph more than all his children” (Gen. 37:3). His brothers hated him because of it (Gen. 37:4). Ultimately, they decided to sell him into slavery. Joseph was only 17 years of age, and his life was about to change drastically. In Genesis 39, Joseph was in the house of Potiphar. Everything in Potiphar's house was blessed because Joseph was in his house (Gen. 39:2). What God has given to us should be displayed in the lives of those that know us as well. We are his children. We must respond and live the way our Father would have us to do so.

Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife, yet he refused to sin against God (Gen. 37:10). Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph, and he was thrown into prison (Gen. 37:14-17). Even though Joseph was being thrown into prison for something that was not his fault, “The Lord was with

Joseph” (Gen. 39:2, 21, 23). When we live a godly life, our character will outweigh any bad thing said about us. No matter what comes our way, we must remain faithful to God. Joseph was going to spend multiple years in jail (Gen. 40:1). While there, he interpreted two men's dreams, one a butler and the other a baker.

His brothers eventually came down to Egypt for food, because of the famine that had hit their land. Joseph saw his brothers and immediately knew who they were (Gen. 42:7), but they knew him not (Gen. 42:8). Joseph ultimately revealed himself to them. All those years Joseph's brothers thought he was dead, but now their lives were in his hands. Joseph's attitude should be our attitude as we look to forgive others (Gen. 45:5).

After the death of Jacob, Joseph's brothers thought that Joseph would finally take his vengeance upon them. When I think about the “path to discovering how to forgive,” this account in the Bible is one of my favorites. We often want to take vengeance on those who have hurt us. Joseph shows us there is a better way; there is God's way (Gen. 50:19-20). The path to forgiveness can be difficult, but we can walk it hand and hand with Jesus.

Being a child of God means we forgive, no matter what. God does not withhold his forgiveness from us, and we should not withhold it from others (Eph. 4:32). When are never closer to being like our Lord than when we are willing to forgive. Forgiveness is hard, but it is necessary.

Some Tips on Reading the Bible, part 1

Rick Kenyon

There are many reasons why we should read the Bible, but occasionally it may be difficult to maintain the discipline necessary to make a regular habit. While desire and commitment are major influencing factors, we cannot rule out that some people may feel lost in how they should read it. Whether you are a daily Bible reader or constantly trying to be one, here are a few tips to enrich your Bible intake.

Read the Bible with prayerful intent. Make prayer an inseparable part of daily (or frequent) Bible reading. Begin and end each reading with prayer; it does not need to be long. James states, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God... and it shall be given him” (Jas. 1:5). Wisdom is the application of truth to life (i.e. knowledge plus understanding). Wisdom only comes to those who seek it; those who do not seek wisdom will not find it. The Bible clothes its readers with information but remains worthless until it finds application in our lives. Bible reading without prayer is like reading a driver's manual without asking how it applies to driving.

Read the Bible no matter what. Bible reading is a learned discipline requiring diligence. There may be days that you don't “feel” like reading. The Bible was never intended to be the kind of book that one casually reads for enjoyment or enlightenment, but a life-long process of taking in God's words to see how they connect to your life and the world around you. This means that our circumstances in life will often affect our understanding and application of certain verses. This doesn't mean that it changes the truth of God's Word, but it adds a unique depth to how that truth applies to our lives.

Read the Bible in its literary context. Reading through the Bible can be difficult due to its wide range of literary styles. The Bible begins with Genesis—an easy (and hopefully enjoyable!) book to read. Why?—because it is a narrative style of writing (narrative = “story-like”). Any books written in narrative style are generally easy reads (eg books of history and Gospels). However, the books Exodus through Deuteronomy (books of Law) challenge readers' endurance. Reading law is not considered enjoyable; it is often tedious, boring, and seemingly pointless unless you have a purpose to read them. The Bible cannot be read like a novel beginning at Genesis and ending at Revelation, it must be read with each of its literary contexts in mind (narratives, law, poetry, prophecy, etc.). As you go through the Bible, do not lose site of the type of book you're reading.

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/test results
 Darlene and Brenda - traveling
 Jimmy Sweeney - surgery recovery
 Nicole Dix - sick

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Bill Long - health
 George Davis - eye procedure
 Virginia Walker - lung infection
 Bobby Sheumaker - health

(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

Updates & Prayer requests

Nicole Dix is at home sick.

Let's be sure to pray for upcoming events:
 Mission trip to Huron, SD.
 WWCC and CFBC Bible Camps
 Members traveling for summer vacations

ADDITIONAL INFO

Elders, deacons, and preachers meeting has been postponed.

Wednesday morning Ladies' class is breaking for the summer. Class will resume in August.

Mark your calendar - *Annual Summer Cook-out* is July 16. More details soon.

We need others to be trained in operating our sound booth. This is a great opportunity to serve the Lord in a VERY meaningful way, especially for those who do not want to be in front of the public. We need your help!

Summer quarter

Two's - Elementary - Overview of New Testament
Middle School - High School Sunday - "Always Be Ready," Vince Daugherty
Adults Sunday - How to read/study your Bible, Rick Kenyon
Adults Sunday - Acts, Vince Daugherty
Adults Wednesday - Genesis, Brian Kenyon
Ladies Wednesday - Personal studies, fellowship hall

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, June 12, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Betrayal of Jesus Vince Daugherty
Matthew 26:21-25

6:00 P.M.

Is Righteousness Possible without the Word of God?
Acts 10:21-22
 George Beals

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) David Deal
 Greeters Fife
 Song/prayer before class Frank Hamby
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Scripture reading/Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Scripture reading/Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson
 Greeters Waldon

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Frank Hamby
 Devo Ian Enamorado
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Upcoming Events

June

11-18 - Mission trip, SD
12-18 - WWCC camp
15 - Ladies' class begins
18 - Men's breakfast, Haines City
19 - FATHER'S DAY
21 - SFA Men's breakfast, 8:30 at Fred's
26 - CFBC begins
26 - Fellowship in-service

July

4 - Independence Day
16 - Summer cookout
21-23 - WWCC K-5
24 - Fellowship in-service



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 22 \$5,038.00
May 29 (building fund) \$7,709.00
Jun 5 \$6,909.00
Contribution Average \$6,437.99
Weekly budget \$7,663.43

*Be content with who you are
 God has created the best you by far
 Be content and accept the mistakes you made in the past
 God has given you today, remember it won't last
 Be content to trust and obey God's word
 He has given us Jesus the Chief Shepherd
 Be content with God's plan of salvation
 Jesus came and died for man's justification
 Be content each day to love and do what's right
 Living each day by faith and walking in the light
 Be content with the God given talent you possess
 Use it to His glory and your reward will be eternal rest*

Scriptures to read: John 10:11; 1 Peter 5:4; Romans 4:24-25; Romans 1:17; Micah 6:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 14:13

Marks of a True Christian

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:9-21

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Return Service Requested

*He only is my rock
 and my salvation,
 my fortress;
 I shall not be shaken.*

Psalm 62:6



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