



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
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

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

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.

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

Hiram Kemp

The most common way for Jesus' followers to address themselves and each other today is using the term, Christian. The word Christian is used three times in the New Testament to refer to the people of God (Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16). While there is nothing wrong with referring to ourselves as Christians, the term used most often to refer to followers of Jesus in the New Testament is the word: disciple. The word translated disciple (μαθητής, mathētēs) means one who engages in learning through instruction from another. A disciple is a pupil apprentice, student, or learner of someone else. One technical definition for the Greek term most often translated disciple is "one who is rather constantly associated with someone who has a pedagogical reputation or particular set of views."

If we are disciples of Jesus, we are students of His life. We are those who are modeling our life after His and following in His steps. Jesus taught in great detail about discipleship and what would be expected of those who would come after Him (see the Sermon on the Mount- Matthew 5-7). Jesus would teach publicly to the crowd, and then He would go into greater depth and detail with His disciples on certain topics while He enjoyed private time with them away from the masses (Matt. 13:36-43; Luke 8:9-15). On one occasion in Luke 14:25-33, Jesus gave an extensive description of what it meant to be His disciple. As Jesus' fame and popularity grew in and around Palestine, many people wanted to follow Him but did not know what they were signing up for (cf. Luke 9:57-62). Jesus took the time to plainly describe what it means to be a follower of His. He did not want His disciples to be confused, then or now, about how difficult, demanding, and challenging it is to be His disciple. However, we should keep in mind that while discipleship is costly, it ultimately leads to a crown of victory (2 Tim. 4:8). As we seek to follow Jesus today, we should reflect on His words shared with those first followers and examine our lives to be sure we measure up. Where we need to make adjustments and improvements, let us not hesitate to do so, and where we are walking in line with His teachings, let us press on.

FAITH ABOVE FAMILY

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:25-26)

As the crowd followed Jesus, He made it a point to tell them that no one who is unwilling to hate their family and even their own life is worthy to be His disciple. As the crowd followed Jesus, He made it a point to tell them that no one who is unwilling to hate their family and even their own life is worthy to be His disciple. The idea that Jesus is driving here is that our allegiance to Him is to be above every relationship in the world. When Jesus said, "seek first the kingdom of God," that is exactly what He meant (Matt. 6:33). The New Testament teaches children to honor their parents (Eph. 6:1-3). Parents are to love their children (Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:4-5). Husbands and wives are to cherish and respect each other (Eph. 5:22-32). Still, all those relationships are to be subordinate to our relationship to Jesus Christ. In a culture where family relationships meant everything, Jesus' words would have pierced the hearts of his listeners.

We should think soberly about these words as well. We must never allow what our family members think about our faith, their views about the importance of Christianity, or lack thereof, to deter us from giving Jesus our all. Those who are incapable of following Jesus without the approval of their loved ones are not fit to be His disciple.

If we love our family more than we love Jesus, or even equal to our love for Jesus, we are ill-equipped to be genuine followers of the One who left all to die for us (Phil. 2:5-8). Discipleship means Jesus first, and everyone else comes in line after Him. We should appreciate that when we put Jesus first, we are then in the best position to love our family members best. Nevertheless, if we try and love our family members more than we love the God who gave them to us, we will never love them as well as we could. Through faithfulness to Jesus, we learn how to cherish and properly engage in every other relationship we have on earth. Jesus' first lesson about discipleship, on this occasion, was to place your faith above your family. Fidelity to Jesus supersedes familial relationships.

FOLLOW HIM

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)

Discipleship involves bearing the cross and following Jesus. We all would greatly benefit from studying the gospel accounts closely and grasping what it meant for Jesus to bear the cross He bore. Jesus was hated, mistreated, lied upon, and maligned as He headed to Calvary (Isa. 53; 1 Pet. 2:21-25). Bearing our cross and following Jesus may not lead to physical death or crucifixion, but it will mean that our will is put to death as we desire to do God's will (Matt. 26:39). We will suffer persecution to one degree or another (Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12). Coming after Jesus involves taking the hard road and living in a way different from everyone else. If our lives do not mirror the amazing life we read of Jesus living in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we are not following closely enough. We will never be sinless as He was (1 John 1:8, 1:10), but we can be faithful (1 Cor. 4:1-2; Rev. 2:10).

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

by Vince Daugherty

II John 4 -- "I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father."

It is so precious to see children walking in step with their fathers. Sometimes you will see children take on the same interests, hobbies, or even the same profession as their fathers. There is even greater joy seen when children decide to walk in step with their heavenly Father. God has blessed us with proper instructions. He blessed us with the proper example -- His Son Jesus. As His children, let us walk the path that has been set in truth.

COUNTING THE COST

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? (Luke 14:28)

Jesus wants His disciples to count the cost. The expression "count the cost" means to think through the decision and mentally calculate what it will take or involve to follow Jesus. Jesus gives examples of the ruin one would experience in building or in a war if he failed to count the cost (Luke 14:28-32). The loss and disaster one would experience in discipleship if he or she failed to count the cost would be far worse. We must be willing to abandon everything to follow Jesus (Luke 14:33). Discipleship means realizing that Christianity will not be easy, but it will be worth it (Matt. 7:13-14).

Counting the cost means that you and I should think about investing our time, energies, efforts, and talents into the kingdom. Bible study will take time (2 Tim. 2:15). Serving others in need may, on occasion, inconvenience us (Gal. 5:13). Evangelism may pull us out of our comfort zone, but we must be bold and reach out anyway (Eph. 6:18-20). Referring to ourselves as disciples of Christ is one way to focus our attention on being students of the life and ministry of Jesus. Discipleship is about putting Jesus' mission above everything else, following in His steps, and counting the cost. Jesus wants His disciples to bear much fruit (John 15:8). Discipleship involves sacrifice and commitment, but it culminates in a crown (1 Cor. 9:25; Rev. 3:11)!

Senior Saints by John McShane

Anyone who watches television is forced to watch the many commercials for all these new pills, lotions, and other medications that seem to come out regularly. At the end of most of these commercials, they list many of the possible side effects you could get if you use this medication, and most of these side effects are harmful to your body. Now, look at the medicine we, as Christians, make available to our friends and neighbors. We should be trying to give away Bible Christianity. Does it have any negative side effects? Not if used correctly and properly applied to our lives. In Galatians 5:22-23, we are told, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such, there is no law." Some outside of Christianity looks upon it as a burden because of what they may have to give up if they accept Jesus Christ. I tend to look at it as what I have gained and what will be the reward when our life on Earth is finished. Christianity, properly applied, is an excellent spiritual medication with virtually no bad side effects. John 14:21 "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." And the reward for the proper application is found in John 14:3 "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also". What is in your medicine cabinet?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Adeline Hine - completed treatments
 Nasheka Medley - pregnancy
 Bernetta Green - health
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Melody Baxter - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Kathy Nester - health
 Joyce Williams
 Annette Phillip
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health

PRAYER LIST

Linda McShane
 Jim & Carol Edmonson - health
 Darlene Thompson - family
 Jim Turner - health
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Ceara Edwards - procedure delayed
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - 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

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Call before visiting.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Antoine Swain is having eye surgery.
Marcella Swain is battling chronic illness.

George Davis is having cataracts removed on Tuesday.

Melody Baxter has a sprained neck from the bus accident.
Chuck Baxter (her husband) is in the hospital for chest pains.

Sisters Sending Sunshine

Ladies of SFA, if you'd like to participate, please see Rene'. Next round begins in July.

Thank you

There is a card on the bulletin board from
Andre, Nasheka & Nya Medley

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.



If you are interested in the American Mission Campaign sponsored by Latin American Missions, please see Brian for more details.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Jimmy Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, June 20, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Understanding the Holy Spirit"
 Galatians 5:22-23

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Intimacy with God"
 Psalm 139

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) David Anderson
 Greeter J. Williams
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements Jimmy Sweeney
 A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer George Davis

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Sweeney
 P.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo Kyle Bingle
 Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Upcoming Events

June

17-19 WWCC
 22 - Ladies night out
 27 - CFBC week

July

18 - Lads2Leaders

August

1 - Lads2Leaders
 6 - 8 WWCC
 21 - Teachers' workshop

September

5 - New Quarter

October

2 - Door Knocking Day
 Trunk or Treat
 (Date TBD)

November

14-17 Fall gospel meeting
 Youth group I
 thankful meal
 (Date TBD)

December

TBA

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 30 \$7,354.00
June 6 \$8,206.00
June 13 \$5,904.15
Contribution Average \$7,191.52

In the age of social media and hyper-connection, everyone can see our highlights, but they can also see us at our weakest moments. We live in a time and culture where anyone with enough of a following is merely one mistake or bad decision away (whether it be past or present) from being swiftly and entirely canceled. No forgiveness. No allowing for improvement. When we witness someone at their worst, are we giving them the benefit of the doubt? Our secular peers can be quick to point fingers. Are we? While there is nothing wrong with addressing issues or pointing them out, sometimes the force behind our words can be aggressive and inflammatory. Are we allowing others room to grow (and bringing them alongside the truth), or are we expecting total perfection? I am beyond grateful that God doesn't work this way. We know this from Ephesians 4:32, John 3:16, Colossians 3:13, and so many other verses. By His grace, mercy, and Christ's sacrifice, I can be confident that God will never cancel me. Do I extend that same benefit to others? I pray that any canceling we do, in our hearts or in public, is never of people with souls whom God finds priceless. Instead, let's cancel gossip. Let's cancel hypocrisy and prejudice. Let's cancel envy, divisiveness, and pride. Let's cancel lust and malice. Let's cancel sin! To be Christians, we must be like God (Ephesians 5:1-2). God isn't in the business of canceling people, just their debt.

Men Who Walked With God

Enoch

Genesis 5:22-24

Noah

Genesis 6:9

Abraham

Genesis 17:1

Isaac

Genesis 48:15

Disciples on Emmaus Road

Luke 24:13-32

Christians

Ephesians 5:2, 5:8

What the New Testament Says About the Devil

Jesus defeated him

Hebrews 2:14-15

God will crush him under our feet shortly

Romans 16:20

He will be tormented eternally

Revelation 20:10

He is our adversary

1 Peter 5:8

The armor of God protects us

Ephesians 6:10-17

He is a liar and murderer

John 8:44

Christians can overcome him

Revelation 12:9-11

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue

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Return Service Requested

THEN JESUS SAID TO THOSE JEWS WHO BELIEVED HIM, "IF YOU ABIDE IN MY WORD, YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES INDEED."¹¹

JOHN 8:31