

New Testament Christianity Is Still the Only One!

Contrary to what some believe, true Christianity is not man-made. It originated with God as revealed in the New Testament, which, along with the Old Testament, contains the only written revelation from God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21). The term "New Testament Christianity" is actually redundant because there can be no true Christianity without it being from the New Testament, and there can be no approved New Testament religion without it being Christianity. However, the term is necessary to use because it distinguishes true Christianity from denominationalism, which claims to be Christianity. All so called "Christianity" is not the same! There is a difference between what is from God and what is invented by humanity. Rest assured, though, that just as sure as there is only one God (1 Timothy 2:5), there is only one church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4), and there is only one true religion, Christianity (cf. James 1:27). Although Christianity became a historical reality almost two thousand years ago, it is just as relevant today. Jesus, who has "all authority...in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18), is still "the head of the church: and...the Savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:23). People are still lost in sin (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Jesus, the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2), still adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). Obeying the Gospel of Christ is still the only way to be saved and added to the body of Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Jesus still extends the invitation: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The Holy Spirit and the church, the bride of Christ, still invite: "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). Have you accepted New Testament Christianity? ❤️ 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 . . .

Announcements and Upcoming Events

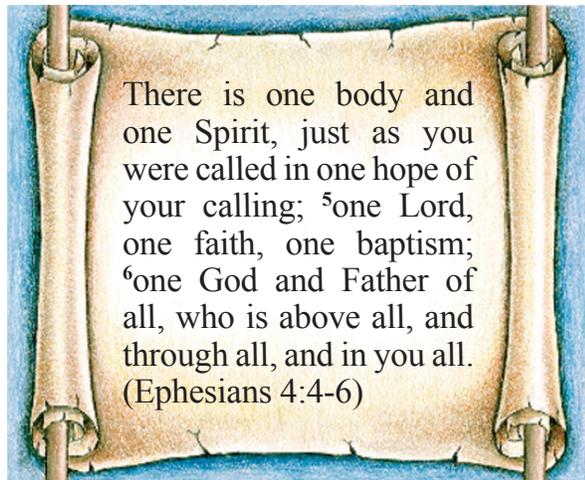
Sunday, June 21 Our monthly youth devotional and activity will coincide with the corn roast that will kick off our VBS. We

will have Gospel singing, a message from God's word, and some games for the young (and older, if they want) people. Help us kick off our VBS!

June 29 thru July 5 is the "Alan Mullins week" at **Central Florida Bible Camp**. Several from the SFA congregation and other area churches of Christ will be there. This is a great time for our youth to learn God's word and to form life-long friendships with other Christians!

Sunday, July 13 Will be our next Lads to Leaders Sunday. Many of our young people are working on memorizing one hundred Bible verses this summer. Any adults up for the challenge?

Florida School of Preaching will begin its 46th school year on August 11, 2014. Why not plan now to take a class or two? Bible knowledge is valuable for everyone!



The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

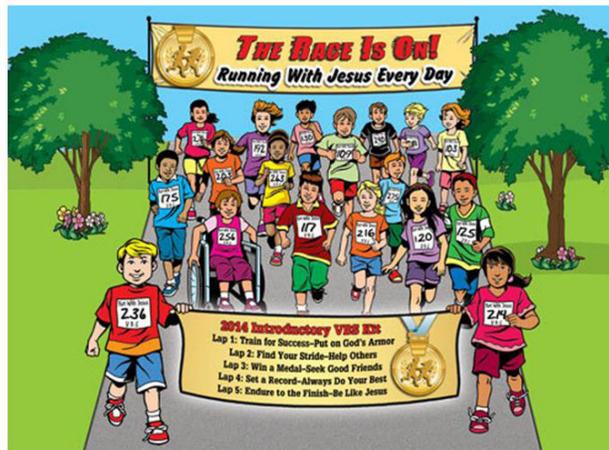
EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

You're Invited!



JOIN US FOR VBS! June 22-26, 2014

South Florida Ave. church of Christ
1807 S. Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
863-682-4702

Sunday 6:00-7:00pm

Monday-Thursday 7:00-8:30pm

Adult Bible Class Teachers Include:

Robert Williams (Sunday)
Eric Dawkins (Monday and Tuesday)
Bob Bauer (Wednesday)
Mike Elledge (Thursday)

Children's Bible Classes Include:

Cradle Roll
Pre-School
K-12

*Chad Tagtow will be teaching all
teenage classes

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE!

How Not To Be “Spiritual Wimps”

Brian R. Kenyon

The term “spiritual wimp” applies to those in the church today who claim to be faithful Christians but either do not really know what the Bible teaches concerning Christianity or do not have enough conviction to put self aside and live the way Jesus really wants us to live (cf. Matthew 16:24) or both. How do we avoid being spiritual wimps? Paul gives us the answer toward the end of First Corinthians, “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, NKJ). When put to practice, these exhortations will keep us from being spiritual wimps!

Be Alert

The first of Paul’s exhortations is to “watch,” also translated “be on the alert” (NAS). The word behind the translations means to be or keep awake; watch, be alert. It is the same word found in Matthew 24:42, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming,” and in Matthew 25:13, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” In order to keep from wimping out on the Lord, we must remain alert in our morality (1 Thes. 5:6); and in our avoidance of Satan’s deceptive schemes (1 Pet. 5:8).

Be Firm In The Faith

The second of Paul’s exhortations is to “stand fast [firm, NAS] in the faith.” To stand firm is to be unwavering, and that in which we are to be unwavering is “the faith,” which here is synonymous with the Gospel (cf. Acts 14:22; Romans 1:5). We become spiritual wimps when we back down from the Gospel due to persecution (Matthew 26:69-75), or when we no longer love the Lord more than the world (2 Timothy 4:10). In order to keep from wimping out, Christians must “let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27). Stability results only when we grow spiritually. (2 Peter 3:17-18).

Be Courageous

The third of Paul’s exhortations is to “be brave.” The King James Version translates this, “quit you like men.” This was an old English way of saying, “acquit yourselves like men,” meaning, “prove yourselves to be manly (courageous).” The phrase is also translated, “act like men” (NAS). The Greek word behind the phrase occurs only once in the New Testament and is defined as to act like a man. Not only does the word mean to be brave and courageous (the opposite of wimpy), it also carries the idea of being mature. Only as we become spiritually mature can we become brave and courageous in the Lord. Why would suffering persecution be the final beatitude (Matthew 5:3-10)? Let us realize that the worst persecution we can suffer on earth (even torture and death) pales in comparison with the glory we will share with Christ in eternity (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-5:4; Rev. 2:10). Knowing and living according to this will keep us from becoming spiritual wimps.

Be Strong

The fourth of Paul’s exhortations is to “be strong.” Grammatically, this word is in the passive voice, which implies that this strength is derived from a source other than us. That source, of course, is the Lord, as Paul would say elsewhere, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10 cf. Psalms 31:24). Obviously, this strength is not physical (2 Corinthians 12:10; 13:4), but spiritual. It is internal spiritual fortitude. Paul prays that the Ephesians be not spiritual wimps: “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16). Likewise, for us not to be spiritual wimps, we must accept the strength that is offered through God (Joshua 1:7-9).

Be Governed By Love

The final exhortation by Paul in these verses is to “Let all that you do be done with love” (1 Corinthians 16:14). Love is to be the overriding factor in the Christian’s life (1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Colossians 3:14). This exhortation to love shows that the exhortations to be brave and to be strong must not be carried out by aggressiveness or self-assertion. Not being a spiritual wimp does not equate to being a bully. Rather, mature Christians are anything but bullies because they realize the importance of love and live the importance of love. “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love...God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:8, 16). May the Lord help us to take these exhortations to be alert, firm in the faith, brave, strong, and loving seriously. Let us not be spiritual wimps!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Sam Bolding is now at Emeritus at Oakbridge, rm 136. Dick & Joyce Burbage are not doing well. Jim Turner got good news last week. The doctors are not going to operate at this time, but will monitor his health until July. Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix, & Lewis Tillis.

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

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

Upcoming Events

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

June 21st: - Corn Roast here at So. Fla. Ave. at 5:00 pm. Please bring desserts and drinks.

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

June 22nd-26th: - Our Vacation Bible School. There will be classes for children and adults.

June 29th - July 5th: - Central Florida Bible Camp. We have applications in the office, or you may register on line.

Visitors

Dan, Lisa, Emily & Bryan Cuneo. Tiffany Jackson, Jane Jessee, Chris Lester, Bill & Carlene Long, Linda Pennington, Nancy Pratt, Bryan Strickland, Corinne Titus.

Hither Thither and Yon

Nona Williams left Monday to attend a family reunion in Mississippi. She will be gone for two weeks. Please keep her and any others who may be traveling in your prayers. Also remember the men and women who are serving in the military.

PLEASE NOTE: We need a Canopy type shade protector for the grass area for the Corn Roast. Please bring one if you can.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

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

Sunday, June 22, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Williams
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jason Hendrix
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Charles Sanford
Closing Prayer..... Kenny French

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Closing Prayer..... C. J. Grimes
Greeters..... Frank & Ginny Hamby
Att. Cards..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wed. June 25, 2014

Song Leader..... Antonio Martin
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

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

June 29, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Casey Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jason Hendrix
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Closing Prayer..... Jason Hendrix
Greeters..... Bob & Bea Pratt
Att. Cards..... Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wed. July 2, 2014

Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Phil Fife
Closing Prayer..... John McShane

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

May 25	\$4,122.00
Jun 01	\$4,867.95
Jun 08	\$5,711.47
Jun 15	\$4,140.52
Contribution Average	\$4,497.05
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Standard Equipment"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

