



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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Learning To Live Like God

Joshua Cantrell

Paul says as surely as you and I cannot read one another's mind, he said no human being could possibly read or know the things of God (1 Cor. 2:9-11). God revealed through the Apostles the mystery (Eph. 3:6). That plan was in place before the foundation of the world (Eph. 3:8-11). If we are going to know God, I urge each of us to do that daily. If you are going to do, that you need his word. You need to study it, you need to read it, you need to meditate upon it daily. His word needs to become your daily bread. The reason for this is not because it's just some academic exercise. It is not that you will get in trouble with the Elders or the brethren. The reason is not that you won't learn certain doctrines. The reason is that you are in a relationship with God, and you cannot know God if you don't have his word. It's not that God is going to get you, it's that you won't get God. And that should drive us as the deer pants for the water (Psa. 42:1).

Getting To Know God

When we study Exodus 33, Moses is asking God to show him his glory. The Bible records, "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." (Exd. 33:18). The long and short of that is Moses asking God to tell me who you are. One might think that Moses has to know who God is. We are in the 33rd chapter of the book and their introduction was back in chapter 3. When God says to Moses, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exd. 3:6), that's an introduction. In the same chapter Moses asks God "whom do I tell them sent me?" Moses should know this, right? What Moses has seen up to chapter 33 are great demonstrations of God's power. He has seen the plagues, he has seen the Red Sea open. He has seen and heard the voice of God (Exd. 20). What he does not know is who God is, personally. What is the character that wilds this great power? When God tells us who he is, we need to take him at his word.

If our understanding and relationship with God is not rooted and based on what he said of himself, It's a possibility we may not know our own God. Moses records, "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving inquiry and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generations. (Exd. 34:6-7). God wants us to seek him, find him, and learn him, so we can live like him.

Learning The Ways Of God In The Old Testament

The ways of the Lord are Equality and Reconciliation. Behind all actions of God, you will find these two things. Unfortunately, many of God's people do not always agree with this way. God has a confrontation in the book of Ezekiel 18. His people are challenging his ways. Ezekiel records, "The word of the Lord came unto me again, saying. What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The Fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? As I live, said the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth shall die." (Exd. 18:1-4). From verses 5-18, God makes this plea consistent throughout this chapter and the whole of the Bible. In this section of scripture, you have 3 generations of 1 family with God demonstrating one point. You have 1st of all (v.5-9) a righteous man. This man walks in the ways of God. This man will live as a result of his faithful and righteous walk. He has a son (v.10-13) and he is as opposite of his father as he can be. As righteous as the father was, the son was that wicked.

God says of that man "he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations;

he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.” (Eze. 18:13). He goes on to have a son who lived a righteous life like his grandfather. God defends and explains his way and how he approaches humanity. His way is Equality, “Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? Are not your ways unequal?” (Eze. 18:25).

Learning The Ways Of God In The New Testament

As we study the life of Jesus and the Apostles that’s what they preached, practiced, and defended. As recorded in Luke 4, he talks about a widow that was sent to Elias (Lk. 4:25-26). He talked about a Leper (Lk. 4:27). God’s ways are equal, man’s ways are not. This is the way Jesus defended. When we read Luke 15, the theme is the same, Equality and Reconciliation. Luke reveals that the Lord’s way was in question, and he defended that. Luke records, “Then drew near not him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.” (Lk. 15:1-2).

Jesus largely says “yes I do.” The way of the Lord is that he receives sinners (Lk. 5:32).

This is the way the Apostles preached. Peter in Acts 2 says, “For this promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts. 2:39). Peter was very eager to preach this, but he did not always practice it (Acts. 10:13). Peter in Acts 10 says to Cornelius “Of a truth, I receive that God is no respect of persons.” (Acts. 10:34). It was Peter’s failure to practice this that caused Paul to withstand him to his face (Gal. 2). Peter did not walk according to the ways of God. He preached them, he perceived them, but he did not practice them.

The ways of God are things we must strive for daily to put on the “new man.” God loved us so much that he sent his son to save us from our sins (Lk. 19:10). Jesus came and took upon flesh (Jn. 1:14). In the end that we would learn from him, so we could live like him. Isaiah records that Jesus was coming, “To teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” (Isa. 2:3).

Interpretation and Context

Rick Kenyon

Webster’s Dictionary defines “interpret” as “to explain or tell the meaning of: present in understandable terms.” In other words, it is the ability to comprehend and communicate one’s understanding of information. Whenever we interpret, we view information through some sort of “lens.” Many factors such as background, culture, education, presuppositions, etc. affect our interpretative lens. Even though each person has a slightly different lens, this does not mean that effective communication is impossible or that our different lenses create different truths. Rather, it means that extra care must be given to ensure that the truth is visible. Every communication seeks to convey a central... and the Bible is no different.

However, it seems too common for people to accept multiple interpretations when it comes to God’s Word. In truth, there can only be one correct interpretation. (Please don’t confuse interpretation, which is understanding what is being communicated with application, which is how to use the information communicated.) The best way to ensure that our interpretation is accurate is to have proper motives so that the surrounding information can shape and clarify our interpretative lens. Context must be considered if we are to appropriately comprehend the truth (Biblical or otherwise).

Historical context. The Bible was not written *to us*, but *for us*. This means we must first understand what the information meant to the original readers before we seek to understand what it means for us. Too often people are looking for the modern-day application before identifying how it applied to the original readers. The idioms, customs, and circumstances of the first century greatly differ than those of the 21st century. To ignore the historical context is to cloud our lens of interpretation.

Immediate context. Words and sentences have different meanings depending on the surrounding context. Every word and every sentence cannot always be readily understood. In the Bible, the immediate context deals with the verses, words, and sentences surrounding any given passage. Often, the immediate context will help determine how a passage should be interpreted: literal? figurative? poetic? etc. In many cases of twisted and misused Scriptures, the immediate context has been altered or ignored to fit a preconceived interpretative lens.

Remote context. Any interpretation we make must align with the entire teaching of the Bible. Since the Bible is ultimately authored by God, it will present unity and harmony from Genesis to Revelation. Thus, God’s Word does not and cannot contradict itself. Any interpretation that explicitly or implicitly contradicts plain Biblical truth is a false interpretation, especially when it comes to the difficult passages of the Bible. The passages that are simple and clear to understand should always be used to understand the passages that are difficult to understand. Even though difficult passages exist, our responsibilities and expectations to God and fellow man have always been clear and simple.

Internal Context. This requires examining our own minds before examining God’s mind. If we approach Scripture with the focus of proving ourselves right (or proving others wrong), then our lens will be shaded. It is impossible to hear what the Bible says when we already know what it’s going to say. We jeopardize our rational ability to process the context of the Bible when we allow skewed motives to interfere. Our love for truth, God, and fellow man must be present in our hearts and minds. Our internal context will determine if we will “come unto to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), or if we will be “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7).

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
 Virginia Walker - health
 Lee Glenn - Covid

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
 Jimmy Sweeney - shoulder rehab
 Brenda Mask - Covid

(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

Prayer requests

Brenda Mask and her son, Patrick, are at home sick with Covid.

Members traveling on vacations, camps, and mission trips.

Thank you to everyone who took and filled a baby bottle bank for **Options for Women!**

Every effort in helping a baby to be born is a blessing.
"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said,

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

If you still have a bank, please return it to the office by July 17.

SUMMER COOK OUT

SATURDAY, JULY 16

2:00 pm fun & games
 5:00 pm dinner

Please add your name on the list to bring side items, desserts, & drinks

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Announcements Rick Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Sunday, July 3, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Great Blessings From The Father
 Joshua Cantrell
Ephesians 1:1-4

6:00 P.M.

The Beauty Of The Church
 Joshua Cantrell
Galatians 3:26-29

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Hendrix
 Greeters Paulin
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Potvin
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Mike Van Allen
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Andre Medley
 Greeters Bingle

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Nigel St. Bernard
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

July

3 - Fellowship In-service
 4 - Independence Day
 12 - SFA men's breakfast
 12 - FSOP ladies class
 16 - Summer cookout
 21-23 - WWCC K-5
 24 - Fellowship in-service
 30 - VBS at Orange St.

August

5-7 -WWCC teens retreat
 9 - FSOP ladies class
 10 - 1st day of school
 18-25 - PTP
 27 - Youth group ice cream social

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jun 12 \$5,427.00
 Jun 19 \$6,316.00
 Jun 26 \$5,069.00
 Contribution Average \$6,341.76
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

No matter how inadequate I feel, I'm comforted by knowing who God is. He is love (1 John 4:16), Alpha and Omega (Rev 1:8), my friend (John 15:14), my everything. I grow because of Him and glow because of Him (2 Peter 3:18).

All things are made possible because of Him (Mark 10:27).

I understand that I need Him and am nothing without Him (Acts 17:28, Col 1:17). He provides all that I need (Phil 4:19).

He is more than enough.

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

PSALM 146

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*Behold, I am the Lord,
the God of all flesh.
Is anything too hard
for me?*

Jeremiah 32:27



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