



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 26 June 29, 2021

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

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Dub Hill.....Russia
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Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

FOUR THINGS THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DOING TODAY

Hiram Kemp

Those who believe the Bible accept the triune nature of God sometimes called the Godhead or the Trinity. The three persons described as possessing the divine essence in scripture are God the Father (John 1:1), Jesus Christ the Son of God (Col 2:9), and the Holy Spirit (Heb 9:14). However, the Holy Spirit often seems to be treated differently than the first two. There are two extremes often adopted that should be avoided when it comes to the Holy Spirit. One is that Christianity is all about the Holy Spirit and very little about Jesus and God the Father. Those who are guilty of this make it as if the Holy Spirit is off on His own working and doing things that may be inconsistent with what we know of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit came, not to speak of Himself, but to testify of Jesus Christ, guide the apostles into all truth, and make things clear and readily available for those who would be His witnesses (John 14:17, 16:13-14).

The second error concerning the Holy Spirit that must be avoided is the failure to mention Him at all. He is God after all (cf. Acts 5:3-4). Sometimes, in our efforts to be conservative and avoid the error of those who blame every religious act on the Holy Spirit, we can be guilty of neglecting Him and His work altogether. There are some things that the Holy Spirit did at one time and He no longer does like give miraculous abilities (cf. 1 Cor 13:8-10). Further, the Holy Spirit has never done things like making individuals do things against their will (1 Cor 14:32) or say things contrary to the will of God (Eph 3:3-5). In this article, I want to focus on four things that the Holy Spirit is doing today.

DWELLING IN CHRISTIANS

I know this can be controversial, but it doesn't have to be. I know faithful Christians who believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in God's people only through the word. I believe that the Holy Spirit dwells literally within every Christian in a non-miraculous fashion. On the day of Pentecost, when the gospel was preached, sinners were told to be baptized to have their sins forgiven, and the indwelling of the Spirit would follow (Acts 2:38). The promise of the indwelling Spirit was promised not only to this first audience on Pentecost but to all those who the Lord would call (Acts 2:39; 2 Thess. 2:14).

Peter affirmed that God gives the Holy Spirit to all who obey God (Acts 5:32). God has sent the Spirit into our hearts as his children so that we can cry, Abba, Father (Gal 4:6). Today, the Holy Spirit of God dwells in Christians. This should be comforting and convicting.

HELPING US PRAY & INTERCEDING FOR US

Christians are told to pray incessantly (1 Thess. 5:17). However, if you're like me, there are times when your heart is full, but your mouth is empty. There are times when the Christian's heart is so heavy with cares and concerns that, though he or she knows they must go to God, how to approach Him with these things can be difficult to grasp.

Aren't you glad that God does not require us to have the oratory skills of Winston Churchill to approach Him in prayer? In anticipation of the times when we would not

know what to say or how to verbally frame our petition, God set up a great arrangement. When we do not know what to say, the Holy Spirit helps us — literally helps our weakness (Rom 8:26).

The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us and is a perfect candidate to do so, for He knows what is in our hearts as well as how to properly communicate with our Father since He is Himself God (Rom 8:27).

If more Christians realized they were not bowing in prayer alone, I think this would revolutionize their prayer lives, or in the least, encourage them to pray more. We pray to our heavenly Father, in the name of His Son who died for us, with the help of the Holy Spirit (John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14). No one has it any better.

SANCTIFYING AND SEALING US

Christians are to live holy lives and be set apart from the world (1 Pet 1:15-16), yet we must never overlook the fact that this is done through the Spirit (1 Pet 1:2). When we adhere to the scriptures that are inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are being set aside for God's special use. Through the Spirit's work in bringing us the revelation of God, we can be God's special people as we comply with what He has revealed.

The Holy Spirit is also mentioned as the seal, or down payment, on the Christian's salvation. How do you know that God won't change His mind about saving you at the end of time? Perhaps because we know that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

Another reason we can be confident is that God has put a down payment on us as proof that He will deliver eternal life at the appropriate time (2 Cor 1:20-22). The Holy Spirit is a guarantee that God will not default on His promise to redeem us (2 Cor 5:5).

Christians have no outward mark beside their godly life by which to show others that they have been sealed, but rest assured that God sees and knows that we are His and will keep His promise, and His Holy Spirit as a seal is the proof (2 Tim 2:19).

CONVICTING THE WORLD

Jesus promised that when the Spirit came, He would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come (John 16:7-11). The Holy Spirit does this today through His word. When people hear the word of God, they are cut to the heart concerning their sins (Acts 2:36-37).

Righteousness is shown as people learn how to be made right with God through the revealed gospel message (Rom 1:16-17). Future judgment is promised in almost every book of the New Testament (Acts 17:30-31; Heb 9:27). The Holy Spirit still convicts people of these three truths as His words, once revealed, are repeated today.

I am not prepared to get on a Holy Spirit hobby horse, but neither do I think we should neglect Him because others have misunderstood His nature, work, and purpose. The Holy Spirit is as much involved in the redemption process as God the Father and God the Son and should not be neglected. There are things blamed on Him that He has never done, and there are things He has always done and continues to do for which He rarely receives recognition.

Christians are to be filled with the Spirit as we digest and obey His teachings (Eph 5:18). Those who deny the presence of the Holy Spirit do not belong to God (Rom 8:9). Let's study what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, after all, it is through His work that we have the Bible. Let's appreciate what He still does today.

Youth Group Trivia

1. What did Jesus do at the Last Supper to His disciples?
2. Who went with Paul on his early mission trips?
3. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
4. What was Matthew before he followed Jesus?

Senior Saints by John McShane

Now that our meetings are underway, let's remember to reach out to friends and neighbors and invite them to our meetings. Not only can they benefit from our guest speakers with their valuable information for seniors, but we can also fellowship with them as members of the Lord's body. Our meetings are designed to encourage our fellow seniors and also to be an opportunity to be evangelistic in the community.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will have coffee and donuts - the perfect time to meet and greet our visitors. Our guest speaker will be Lakeland's Mayor Bill Mutz.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health	John & Linda McShane
Jim & Carol Edmonson - health	Ron & Judy Ford - health
Nasheka Medley - pregnancy	Darlene Thompson - family
Bernetta Green - health	Jim Turner - health
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson - bronchitis
Melody Baxter - bus accident	Brian Smith - heart
Debbie Bush - health	Kathy Nester - health
Margaret Coone	Joyce Williams
Sharon M. Washington - health	Annette Phillip - health
Antoine & Marcella Swain - health	George Davis - eye problems

(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

*Sign up sheet to bring communion is on the bulletin board

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Casey & Emily Paulin have tested positive for Covid and are sick.

Sharon Egolf will be traveling to Miami later this week..

George Davis is still experiencing eye problems after his surgery.

Let's lift our elders in our daily prayers as they continue to lead us.

Let's remember them in the search for a new minister.



If you are interested in helping make contact with visitors but not as a greeter, please see Dee for more information.

- Mark your calendar -

Teachers' Workshop for Bible Class Teachers with April Meacham and Teah McWhorter.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to the office.

The monthly fellowship in-service will be next Sunday, July 4, BEFORE evening worship because of the holiday.

YOUTH GROUP TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Wash their feet (John 13)
2. Barnabas (Acts 13)
3. John 11:35 "Jesus wept."
4. Tax collector (Matthew 10:3)

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Brian Kenyon
Devo Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Anderson

Sunday, July 4, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"What the Faithful Spies Teach Us"
Numbers 14:6-10

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Lessons From Lamentations"
Lamentations 3:22-24

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Bobby Sheumaker
Greeter Nona Williams
Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer Kyle Bingle
Lord's Table David Williams
Closing Prayer Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Shearer
P.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
Lord's Table Alex Parramore
Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Ian Enamorado
Devo Josh Cantrell
Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

July

18 - Lads2Leaders
20 - Senior Saints mtg.
24 - church cook-out
26 - ladies' night out
30 - Youth group devo

August

1 - Lads2Leaders
6 - 8 WWCC
17 - FSOP ladies' class
21 - Teachers' workshop

September

5 - New Quarter

October

2 - Door Knocking
Trunk or Treat
(Date TBD)

November

14-17 Fall gospel meeting
19 - Youth group thankful meal

December

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 13	\$5,904.15
June 20	\$6,321.71
June 27	\$5,967.40
Contribution Average	\$7,110.99

Do You Care?

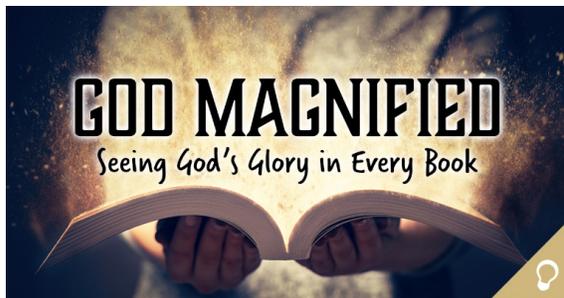
So fragile is life - Do you care?
Someone is in need - Do you care?
Someone is lonely - Do we care?

You see someone hurting - Do you care?
A life or heart is broken - Do you care?
Souls are lost - Do we care?

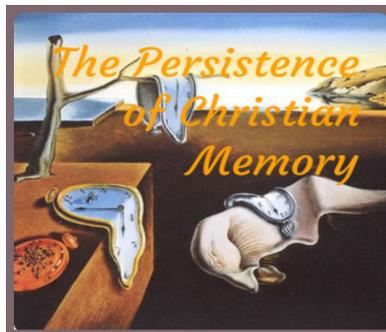
Read again Luke 10:25-37 (Instead of seeing things as inconvenient or bothersome, lets have a heart like the Samaritan who saw a need and made it his business to do what was right!)

Show you care: Pray for others, share the gospel with the lost, encourage the wayward members, send a card just because, visit the sick, call people to say hello, read a scripture or sing a hymn with a friend, cook a meal and share it with someone, send a text, send an email, give your lunch to someone who needs it, give someone a ride to church, take someone to the park, ask someone how their day is going, hug someone, play with a baby, ask a kid what makes them happy, give away clothes you love but don't need, forgive someone who has done you wrong, love people with your whole heart!

The list is endless!!



Hosted by
Hiram Kemp
(The Light Network)



Hosted by
Vince Daugherty



Hosted by
Dee Parramore
Brittani Kemp
Stephanie Kenyon

- Podcasts hosted by members of SFA -

Links are available on our website under the SERMONS tab.
You can also listen on our YouTube channel.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

"BY THIS WE KNOW
THAT WE ABIDE IN HIM
AND HE IS US, GIVEN
US OF HIS SPIRIT"

1 JOHN 4:13