

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

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.

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Does God Approve?

T. Pierce Brown

If I were discussing any Bible subject with a person in an effort to determine what is the proper action to take, and should discover that he is not concerned with whether or not God approves of such an action, I would stop that discussion. The reason is simple. If there is no standard by which to measure anything, there is no value in discussing whether it should or should not be anything.

If a person indicates that he is concerned about God's approval, the next step is to discover how he decides if God approves or disapproves of something. If his standard of measurement is how he feels in his heart, we stop the discussion, for not only is there no way for me to determine how he feels in his heart, but there is no way for me to determine if he feels the same way from one moment to the next. If he concludes that the way to decide what God wants in a matter is by an examination of God's Word, then we ask, "What shall we look for in God's Word to determine that?" If he admits that God's specific command that a thing be done is one way we may be assured that God approves of it, we continue talking. If he admits that we do not have to find a specific command provided there is an approved example shown to be approved by the inspired record, we continue talking. If he admits that even if we cannot find a specific example, if it is necessarily implied that God approved, then we continue.

To illustrate how this works, let us take the subject of when we should partake of the Lord's Supper. There are those who claim membership in the Lord's church who are today suggesting that since the Lord's Supper is for the purpose of calling our attention to the sacrifice of Christ for us, and we can properly remember the Lord's death at any time, then we can properly take the Lord's Supper at any time.

Let us examine the question in this fashion: Does the Lord approve of us taking the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week? If we have already established one of the means for finding out what pleases the Lord is an approved example, then we settle that matter by reading Acts 17:20.

Sometimes It Takes a Pigpen!

Dean Kelly

I went to an area Gospel Meeting last night and heard a lesson on the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). As I listened I could not help but think: Sometimes it Takes a Pigpen. You remember that this young Jewish man wound up feeding pigs, and even desiring their food. As the speaker said, I don't think you could sink any lower as a Jewish man than to have to even be around pigs, much less take care of them. And on top of that, the pigs were being well fed while he starved.

The other day I was listening to the commentators on an Atlanta Braves broadcast. They were talking about interviewing Terry Pendleton, who is the Braves hitting coach. They asked him how he got the players to listen to him about their hitting. After all, most of these men have played baseball as long as they can remember. They have been successful in little league, Babe Ruth, High School and sometimes in college. They have been batting like they do and don't relish the idea of being told how to bat. His response was, "They have to hit rock bottom before they will listen to me." Yep, sometimes it takes a pigpen.

The young man had demanded that his father give him his inheritance, and he had gone off and spent it in wild living. We all know the story. It is hard, especially in youth, to look down through the days to come and realize the consequences of our actions. We all like instant gratification. I want what I want and I want it now! I don't stop and think about what that means about tomorrow. And that is why it is a fact that sometimes it takes a pigpen.

I might slightly disagree with the speaker I heard (a very minor disagreement), but I don't believe that the prodigal's older brother actually knew where he went. It is my personal opinion (though I would not debate it as fact) that the older brother's accusations against his brother, even though they were accurate, were a reflection of what he would have done had he left, rather than of knowledge that he had of his brother's actions. Do you realize that in this parable the only one that is left in an unsafe position at the end is the older brother? Sometimes I wonder if some folks don't need to find themselves in the pigpen to realize what they have. We can be so ungrateful for the blessings that we have, and so caught up in those things that we lose our concern for others. This older brother became hateful and childish, and felt sorry for himself. Maybe he needed a little while in the pigpen to truly appreciate what his father had done for him.

One of our jobs, in the church, as parents, as friends and as brethren is to try to help others realize where they are and where they are headed, to try to keep them from winding up in the pigpen. We can avoid the pigpen. It takes careful thought on our part. It takes recognition of the possible consequences of our own actions. We must listen to the inspired advice and counsel of the apostle Paul to the young man and preacher, Timothy: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12); and again, "Flee youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22).

We don't want to see anyone that we love starving in the pigpen. Obviously, like with this young man, it is going to happen. Let us do all we can to avoid it, and to help keep our children, our friends and our brethren from the pigpen. And then, when one of us does wind up in the pigpen, and finally comes to his/her senses, let us welcome that person back with open arms and hearts. After all, the only time that God is pictured as running in the Scriptures is to welcome back his wayward child.

Please be careful and don't leave God, but if you do remember sometimes it takes a pigpen.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Wanda Turner has not been feeling well. Please keep Brenda Mask, Jacqueline Dopwell and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage.

Others: Chrissi Fuesner, Roger DeWitt (friend of Sharon Egolf) who has cancer, Bert & Gloria Allen, (some of our winter visitors).

Upcoming Events

July 4th: Fellowship cook-out here at the building at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a side dish and fireworks. The meat will be provided. Come and join us for the fun.

July 5th: Our Monthly "Fellowship in Service" will meet after evening services. Also the K-2 group will meet for Lads to Leaders at 5:00 p.m.

July 7th-10th: V.B.S. at the Orange Street Church of Christ from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The theme is "Christian Academy, Training Super Heroes for God!" See the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Sympathy

Sybil Carr passed away on June 27th in Belmont, MS. at the age of 95. Also Rena Swiney, the mother of Dolores Longfellow passed away on June 1st. Bruce & Dolores will be traveling to Michigan to be with their family for an extended time. Please keep all these families in your prayers.

Updating E-mails

If you would like to be contacted by e-mail or need to update your e-mail address with the church, please notify the office.

Visitors

Chris & Michelle Brown and James Stone.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Fred Strickland
Bobby Simpson..... **Assist** Phil Fife

Sunday, July 5, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Stacey Paulin
Greeters The Andersons
Att. Cards..... Paul & Ian
Open & Close Building Kenny French

Wed. July 8, 2015

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

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

Sunday, July 12, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Anderson
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards..... Quadarius & Sebastian
Open & Close Building Kenny French

Wed. July 15, 2015

Song Leader..... Ken Walker
Opening Prayer..... David Williams
Closing Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 7 **\$6,037.05**
June 14 **\$3,609.21**
June 21 **\$5,046.20**
June 28..... **\$5,123.75**
Contribution Average **\$4,712.55**
2015 Weekly Budget..... **\$4,302.98**

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

Message this Week

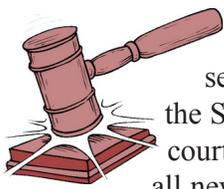
"Keep on Trying"

WONN 1230 or WLKF 1430 or on web page

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Can the US Supreme Court Overturn God's Law?



On Friday, June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have a right to "marry" anywhere in the United States. To the knowledge of this writer, everywhere a proposal for same-sex marriage was put to a vote by individual States, it was defeated by a majority of the voters. To many, the Supreme Court's decision was not surprising, though disappointing. The question, however, remains, can a court of civil law cancel God's law. The answer is, of course, No. Civil law when Moses was born said to kill all newborn Hebrew boys, but some midwives and the parents of Moses refused (Exodus 1:15-22; 2:1-4). Civil authorities told Peter and John to stop preaching the Gospel, but they answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). The practice of homosexuality is condemned by God in every dispensation of human history. Under Patriarchy it was sinful (Genesis 13:13; 18:20; 19:4-11; Jude 4). It was sinful under Mosaic law (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13). It is sinful under the law of Christ (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 9:6-11). This has nothing to do with hate. "God is love" (1 John 4:8), yet He still says that practicing homosexuality is sinful. Faithful Christians are to love all people (Romans 13:8), even those who practice sin, including the practice of homosexuality. This is exactly the reason why God's people must stand for and obey God's law! God wants "all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4), not just heterosexuals. God has commissioned His church to carry the Gospel to "all the nations" (Matthew 28:19-20), not just heterosexuals. May Christians have the courage to respect, stand up for, and obey God's law, even in the face of civil authorities who may compel citizens to partake in sin. ❤️ *Brian*



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

BIG HUGE THANKS

For all our volunteers who made our VBS spectacular! Our teachers did a masterful job, going the "second mile" with their crafts and special projects! Our "cookies and Kool-Aid" organizers and servers kept us refreshed! Those who stayed late to clean each night sparkled!



Pray for our members at various Bible camps. Some are at Indian River Youth Camp in Alabama and some are at CFBC.

Have You Considered Being a Bible Class Teacher?

We are looking for teachers to teach in our Fall quarter, which begins in September. If you would like to teach, please see Brian.



Pray for Costa Rica

On July 10, our youth group and adult mentors will depart Orlando for a Costa Rica missionary campaign. The following members of the South Florida Avenue church of Christ are part of the team: **Brian, Jagie, Elly, Lorelly, Zsazeli, Rene, Heidi, Kyle, Kathy, Tucker, Pat, and Shannon.** We solicit your prayers on behalf of the whole team that we have safe travels, that we are able to maintain good health, that the word of God may have



"free course" and sink deep into the hearts of honest people. We thank our eldership for supporting us in this Gospel campaign.