



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 27 July 7, 2020

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
John McShane  
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

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

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*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.

## PROVERBS 1

Vince Daugherty

### Introduction (1:1)

In Solomon's early years as king of Israel, I Kings 3:3 says that "Solomon loved the Lord." Because of his love for the Lord, God granted his a request for wisdom. "Give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (I Kings 3:9). Because of Solomon's humility and good request, God indeed gave him wisdom and with it came fame and fortune. I Kings 4:32 says that Solomon wrote over three thousand proverbs. Proverbs 1:1 tells us that the book of Proverbs was written and collected by Solomon. Proverbs are short, wise sayings that give instruction to the reader or listener. One pattern of a proverb is one that amplifies. It will begin with one short line or sentence. Then the writer will amplify the proverb by rephrasing the line using other words. In the ancient world, no one had a bold font to use or wrote in all caps. Often in the Bible, especially sections of poetry, you will find this amplifying pattern is meant to strengthen the idea because it is repeated. Another pattern is opposition. The opposition will begin with a short line or sentence, then shows the truth of the opposite. A common phrase we use in English is looking at "the other side of the coin." Whatever truth is displayed on the one side, the converse is true on the other. The third major pattern in the proverbs is seen in the completion of proverbs. This pattern begins with a short line or sentence that is left open, then completed in the next or successive lines of poetry.

### Why a Book of Proverbs (1:2-6)

Proverbs 1:2-6 gives an introduction of why Solomon compiled a book of Proverbs. Starting in verse two, he says, "To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding." The following verses amplify the first line. Beginning with the word "to," all are meant to emphasize the first expression. Many point to Proverbs 4:7 as the purpose statement for the entire book. "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting get understanding." If Solomon lived in the 21st century, he would say, "I'm here to drop some knowledge on you." Intrinsic to one's study of the book of Proverbs, we must have a proper understanding between wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge is the acquiring of information. Wisdom is the practical application of said knowledge. Have you ever met someone who was "book smart" but not "street smart"? In many ways just simply having knowledge of something is not good unless it is partnered with wisdom. In the age we live, we have the powerful tool of Google. We can gain a lot of information in a relatively short amount of time. But as evidenced in the world around us, wisdom does not come so easily. I am reminded of what James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." Notice the verse says we can ask God for wisdom. Why not ask God for knowledge? Knowledge is readily accessible for the one who is diligently seeking. If I lack knowledge, I need to apply myself and do the research. Wisdom, however, is not so readily accessible. Someone might be younger and less experienced. I remember when I was fresh out of college looking for jobs. The people hiring wanted at least two, five, or seven years of experience before they would consider me. My frustrated inner voice would reply "How can I get two, five, or seven years of experience if I cannot get my first experience?" "To the young man," the book of Proverbs gives "knowledge and discretion", and to the wise man "increase learning" (1:4,5). At any age, a study of the Book of Proverbs is a fruitful endeavor.

### The True Source of Wisdom (1:7)

Proverbs 1:7 reads, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom." One can easily see the contrasting pattern of poetry. On one side of the coin, it talks about the "fear of the Lord", and on the other side,

the fool, the one who says, "there is no God" (Psalm 14:1). Whether the fool says it out loud or whether he goes about his life practicing as if there is no God, Solomon says that he despises wisdom. The word "fear" is a little tricky. Understand that "fear" in the Bible does not necessarily mean the idea of cowering in a ball in terror, although, it could mean that. Some take the pendulum too far to one extreme when it comes to the Biblical understanding of fear. Fear in the Bible carries an idea of reverence. We need to recognize how high and holy God is in His wisdom compared to ours. In terms of morality and consistency, God is so far removed from ours, we ought to stand in fear and reverence for His way and His wisdom. And having a healthy fear or understanding of that separation, gives us reverence for who He is (Isa. 55:9,10). God is the ultimate source of knowledge and wisdom. Many of the modern world will look to science as the ultimate source of knowledge and wisdom. But when one observes, researches, or studies, we are merely "thinking God's thoughts after Him" as Johannes Kepler put it.

### Two Excellent Sources of Wisdom (1:8,9)

If God is the ultimate source of wisdom, two earthly figures of wisdom can be seen in one's mother and father. By rule, they have been around longer than you have, and have had more experiences than you have. They have survived up to the point of having you, and therefore, can be an excellent beginning source of wisdom for your life. From my experience, my parents have always been excellent sources of knowledge and wisdom. They helped to shape and mold me and have always given me sound advice, even when I was too stubborn to take it. And, as I have gotten older, I find I still come back to the sources more and more as I realize they are an excellent and easily accessible source. If wisdom is compared to a watering hole, God is the ultimate source of that water, and mother and father are two springs shooting forth. It is our job as children to bring the bucket. At this point, it is good to mention that the Book of Proverbs lends itself to the rule and not the exception. In general, even though we know that no parent is perfect, but they are an excellent source of wisdom. However, there will always be exceptions.

### Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

1. The **Standard** - Psalm 119:9

*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word*

2. The **Will** - Psalm 119:10

*With my whole heart I have sought you; Oh, let me not wander from your commandments!*

3. The **Practice** - Psalm 119:11

*Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.*

A young person can have good success if they know the

- 1) **proper standard**
- 2) have a **total will** to do it and
- 3) **practice it**

### A Very Bad Source of Wisdom (1:10-19)

"My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent." (1:10). Sinners are a horrible source of wisdom. They are the watering hole that has been corrupted by disease. To the sinner, the gang life is appealing: lying in wait to prey upon the unsuspecting; finding possessions among the slain; having one purse amongst the group. The plea of the loving father is to "Keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil." How many countless youth need sound advice from their fathers, who in their absence, throw their lot in with the gangs? What might seem like wisdom at the moment is actually a death sentence. "They lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own blood." (1:18).

### Lady Wisdom Calls Out (1:20-33)

Whereas knowledge is accessible through diligent search, so, too, is wisdom to those who would seek it. Notice where wisdom is found, "outside" and in the "open squares" (1:20). "She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city." (1:21). Wisdom is accessible. It is not lurking in the shadows or hard to find but makes itself known if one is willing to look. Wisdom is personified as a lady, and she asks a simple question, "How long, you simple ones will you love simplicity?" One who is unwise and undiscerning does not have to remain that way. Wisdom is not a fleeting bank account that when it is all used up there is no more. It is one that can be found in abundance. But, there are those who are unwilling to leave their ignorance. "I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, Because you disdained all my counsel." (1:24). Therefore, wisdom says she will laugh at the day of simple's calamity (1:26,27). Gaining wisdom is a time-sensitive thing. How many have shrugged off sound advice their whole life and find that the life they look back on has been rough physically, mentally, or otherwise? Many in the prisons talk to young people pleading with them to not make the same bad decisions that they made. While we have the opportunity, let us fear the Lord and look to walk in His ways, lest there come a time when there is no time for coming back.

(continued on page 4)

### Senior Saints

by John McShane

As I look out into our country today and see and hear all that is going on, I am more convinced than ever that this country really needs old people.

#### We need old people

-with their old fashioned work ethics

- that know how to demonstrate a sense of responsibility
- that demonstrate pride in this country that we helped to build
- to show younger people the values that we grew up with and that we live by to this day.

Finally, we older people need to show the younger people our faith in our God that was and is still part of our everyday life.

Psalm 71:18 "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

## PRAYER LIST

Ginny Hamby	Brenda Mask	Phil Fife
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt	Linda McShane	Brian Smith
Margaret Norman	Bernetta Green	Ray Nashick
Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson	Bob Pratt
Cierra Edwards	Ellen Shearer	Geny Johnson
Ron & Judy Ford	Stacey Paulin	Jim Turner
Sharon Washington	Annette Phillip	Margaret Coone
Neil Entwistle	Antoine & Marcella Swain	

**Others:** **George French** (Kenny & Reba's son, pancreatic cancer); **Trevor & Sandy Hutchins** (Becky Sheumaker's sister & brother-in-law, cancer); **Roselyn Roberts** (friend of Darlene Thompson); **Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister); **Maria Wardell** (Darlene Thompson's granddaughter, pneumonia & problems with liver and kidneys); **Alicia Zamot** (Jagie's aunt); **Keith Cozort** (former member); **Chip Bolding**; **Tony Seibert**; **Neil Entwistle Sr.**; **Tanya Irizarry**; **Derick Jordan**; **student of Jimmy Sweeney** (brain tumor); **Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son); **Mary Ankroum** (knee surgery); **Patricia Hewitt** (chemo); **Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland** (Ruby Lewis' nephew, cancer); **Jenny Laws's family** (Nikki Williams' cousin, cancer); **Tim Kenyon** (Brian's brother, possible cancer); **Gene Johnson** (Mark Johnson's father, cancer); **Harold Barker's family** (Darlene Thompson's cousin); **Cooper Terry** (18 year old son of Jeff Bingle's coworker, cancer).

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Carol Eason Joyce Burbage  
Cheryl Barker Ellen Shearer  
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

## UPDATES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

**Cooper Terry**, 18 year old son of **Jeff Bingle's** coworker, has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in abdomen and lungs.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

To **Nikki Williams** on the passing of her cousin,  
Jenny Laws, on July 1, 2020.

To **Darlene Thompson** on the passing her of her cousin,  
Harold Barker, on July 4, 2020

## Thank you

Dear Beloved Brethren, Thanks for all your fellowship of love during my recent illness. Your wonderful cards of love, calls, and prayers are so heart warming and kind. Wow, I miss you all so very much. I pray, Lord willing, to see you soon with all your warm smiles of love. "In Him we live and move and have our very being." Acts 17:28  
**Jim Turner**



Brenda Lynn has met with our elders and is now placing her membership with us at SFA. Let's extend a warm welcome to Brenda.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

### Sunday, July 12, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"Why We Obey" John 14:15

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"Rejecting the World's Diet" Daniel 1:8

### Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting July 12 at 4:30 p.m., library

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) ..... Charles Paulin  
Song before class ..... Tucker Sweeney  
Announcements ..... Brian Kenyon  
A.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson  
Lord's Table ..... Phil Fife  
Closing Prayer ..... Alex Parramore

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Andre Medley  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
Lord's Table ..... Phil Fife  
Closing Prayer ..... Curtis Morelock

## ASSEMBLING UPDATE

If you are not already attending and would like to, please notify the office. We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

**As of July 2, the city of Lakeland has issued a face mask mandate. Masks must be worn upon entering the building.**

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22. In view of more people attending, we will post a "Those to Serve" list above. If you would like to serve in these areas, please let the office know.

- Elders -

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jun 14 .....	\$5,979.00
Jun 21 .....	\$8,651.00
Jun 28 .....	\$6,526.00
Jul 5 .....	\$7,200.00
Contribution Average .....	\$7,055.86

For many years I struggled to understand this verse. Hannah cried out because she couldn't have children. David wrote psalms filled with anguish and grief. Some people in the Bible had thoughts of suicide. There is even an entire book dedicated to explaining how life is nothing but a "vanity of vanities." These are ancient people, but their circumstances are still so relatable to us. With all the pain and suffering in our world, how could God possibly call us to be joyful?

- 1) Happiness and joy are NOT interchangeable. One of the biggest mistakes I was making was attributing my internal peace to my external circumstances. Happiness is fleeting, but joy is eternal (Philippians 4:11-13)
- 2) God knew we needed each other (Genesis 2:18). Do not keep your struggles to yourself. There is nothing new under the sun, and there is always someone else who has been in your shoes. There are also great Christian therapists to walk with you in your struggle.
- 3) This is all temporary. One day this life and all its tribulations will end. As Christians, we are guaranteed the happy ending. We will be with God in heaven, and what could bring greater joy than that?

Men of the Master

by Brian Kenyon

### A Temporal or Permanent Habit?

Recently two preachers were discussing the potential difficulty of motivating members to come back to in-person church services when the covid pandemic is over. One man, who worked many years in retail management before becoming a preacher, said with concern, "Habits are formed in 66 days, and we've been live streaming for nearly a quarter of the year." I'm not sure about the accuracy of "66 days," but I do know that some people are way too comfortable with the "at home worship" arrangement, not so much because of health concerns (they go other places, seemingly no problem), but because of the comfort and convenience of staying in pajamas and sipping coffee! Hopefully, this does not apply to SFA members, but let's examine ourselves and make sure we continue to value and desire congregational worship as God intended and fellowshiping one another in that setting. (Note how many times "come together" or similar phrases occur in First Corinthians 11:17-34.) "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (3 Jn. 1:2).

### PROVERBS 1 (cont.)

"For the turning away of the simple will save them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; But whoever listens to me [wisdom; the Lord] will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil." (1:32,33).

#### Conclusion

Solomon's words of wisdom apply to any age in any age. Let us look into the mirror of God's law and ask ourselves -- Who are my sources of wisdom, and are they drawing from the Ultimate Source? Am I well acquainted with lady wisdom or do I shun her counsel? Do I bear the wounds and scars of the simple or do I dwell in peace and safety among the wise?

Live stream will continue until further notice  
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