



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
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Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
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Jimmy Sweeney

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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.

EMAIL

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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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.

Memorize More Scripture: How to and Why You Should

Hiram Kemp

Arthur Fletcher is famous for saying, "The mind is a terrible thing to waste." He was right. Jesus said, among other things, that we should love God with all of our minds (Mark 12:30). Sometimes people fail to see that Christianity involves the intellect as much as it does our emotions or actions.

The Bible is the book given to us by God, and we should internalize it and memorize it. Before you say you can't, allow me to impress you with the capability of the human mind.

Paul Reber, a professor at Northwestern University, was asked whether there was a physical limit to how much the human mind can remember. He responded by saying the human brain is made up of about one billion neurons, and the neurons combine to help with our memories. When comparing the brain to a digital recorder, our brains can hold up to 3 million hours of t.v shows or the equivalent of leaving a T.V. running continuously for more than 300 years. Simply put, we have more room. What will we fill it with? I know we all are different and some at better at remembering scripture than others, but we can all do it and it has its benefits.

Why Memorize?

Someone may say, "Why should I memorize scripture when we have copies of the Bible everywhere?" That's exactly why we should memorize. We have the Bible on every device and in every room of our house, and it's tempting to say that we do not need to commit anything to memory. But we may not always have the Bible with us or access to it, and our laziness will come back to hurt us.

For no other reason, we should memorize scripture because God encourages us to memorize throughout His Word. The Psalmist claimed that having the word hidden in his heart kept him from sin (Ps 119:11). Everyone who has scripture memorized does not always stray from sin, but they have a better chance than someone ignorant of the scriptures. (See Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11) Solomon said we should bind the commands on our fingers and write them on the table of our hearts (Prov 7:2-3).

Parents should place the word of God in their children's hearts far out of the reach of the Devil and the world (Deut. 6:6-9). This is not meant to be a guilt trip for those who have not memorized a lot of scripture, but it should bolster our commitment to try and learn more. After all, God wants us to.

How Can We Memorize More Scripture?

There are all sorts of ways to memorize scripture but the best thing we could do is start. We should be intentional and focus our mind to remember certain truths from God's word. Many Jews memorized the first five books of the law of Moses by the time they were teenagers (Genesis- Deuteronomy).

We may say that's a lot, that we can never do that. We think we couldn't memorize even a chapter of Scripture. But have you tried Psalm 117? We need to believe we can and begin. One way is to write a verse on a card and glance at it throughout the day. We could learn a verse a day this way, that's five verses a week if you take off weekends, and twenty-plus verses a month if you cumulatively do this. There are different kinds of scripture typing apps that help you internalize scripture and regulate

the level of difficulty until you can type the verse in its entirety without help and error.

If you spent a little time every day doing this, you would be surprised how much you could learn in a short amount of time. But what if it takes a long time? We must not buy into the idea that the only spiritual things worth doing are those that are easy and quick to accomplish. Discipleship is hard, but that is what we signed up for (Luke 9:23).

What if you made a list of subjects that you wanted to memorize the scripture on and start there? Spend a month memorizing verses on conversion, baptism, and repentance. Then take a month and memorize verses that deal with comfort, the love of God, and forgiveness. Or spend time memorizing verses that identify the attributes of Jesus. We are to meditate on good things (Phil 4:8). What better way to do this than by always having a verse swirling around in our heads?

If we want to memorize more scripture, we should use it. If we do not use it, we will lose it over time. Internalize scripture, then use it. Share verses of comfort with your family and co-workers. Insert verses when people have questions about how to become a Christian or a Christian's response to enemies. When your children want to know why things must be done a certain way, share small nuggets of scripture with them. Proverbs is great for this. Memorize scripture as a family, or with a group of friends, to encourage each other and hold each other accountable (Heb 3:13).

Benefits of Memorization and a Word of Caution

The benefits of memorizing the word of God are numerous. We will be ready to give a defense to those who ask a reason for the hope we have (1 Pet 3:15). We will be more readily able to talk to people about Jesus as we know where certain things are found in scripture. Our faith

is increased as we preach the gospel to ourselves daily.

We obey God and put His word where He wants it (Heb. 8:10). It helps to keep the mind pure and helps guard against sin, which ultimately begins in the mind (Ps 37:31; Matt 12:33-34). We should be careful with scripture memorization, though. Always keep in mind that every verse has a larger context, not only the chapter it was written in but the book it is in, along with the Bible as a whole. So, as we memorize scripture, be careful not to forget that verses cannot be ripped from their original context and mean whatever we want.

Also, there is a temptation to become arrogant. We may know more verses than someone else, but if they are walking in the light, we do not have any more of Jesus than they do (1John 1:7).

Do not allow the number of verses you memorize to become badges of self-righteousness. There will not be a massive Bible-trivia bowl in heaven. We must not use the verses we learn to stump others and prove them wrong and ourselves right.

Learn verses that challenge your sinful behavior and learn verses from books of the Bible you often overlook or rarely study. Ultimately, all of the Bible is about Jesus, and your knowledge should point us to Him (Luke 24:44).

Where are you going to start? If you have already begun, challenge yourself to learn more. Loving God with all of our minds means our intellect is not off-limits to Him. See that God wants us to do this. Appreciate the fact that we can do this and that it is realistic. Then, begin and keep in mind these verses are a part of God's larger story, and to memorize them does not elevate us above anyone else.

*"I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word."
Psalm 119:16*

Youth Group

"HE WHO
BUILD ALL
THINGS"

Hebrews 3:4 says,
"For every house is built
by someone, but He
who built all things is God."

Have you ever been walking down the road and look at the various houses you pass by? It is easy to conclude because there is a house that we see, at some point, someone built it. This just makes sense. Who is behind everything in which we see in our universe? There had to have been someone or something that was the first builder. The writer of the book of Hebrews affirms when we look at the world we can know that there was a builder for it all -- God!

Senior Saints by John McShane

As I think of the passage in Genesis 4:9, "*the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And Cain said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?*" I would like to take "am I my brother's keeper" into today's world regarding our seniors. As we grow older, many seniors have less family to rely upon for help they may need for day-to-day activities. Many cannot afford to retire to senior living facilities where their needs are taken care of. In Acts 6:1-6, we find deacons being appointed to see to the welfare of the widows. In very few places have I seen a deacon appointed to take care of our elderly. I suggest that we all have a responsibility to frequently check that our seniors are doing well. We are our brother's keeper, and in Mark 3:35, we find out who our brother is. It reads: "*For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister and mother.*"
Let's take care of each other.

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
Fred Strickland - health	Bobby Simpson - health
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

Linda McShane is scheduled for a heart cath on Tuesday.
Virginia Walker has not been feeling well.

Coffee and donuts will be available. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Senior Saints

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Special guest speaker:
Lakeland's Mayor Bill Mutz

Youth Group Activities & Events

July 17 - Orange St. VBS
July 18 - Lads 2 Leaders
July 25 - Communion and devo with Ms. Joyce
July 30 - Devo and service project at Klark's house

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



Church Cook-out
Saturday, July 24, 2021
Activities and games at 2:00 p.m.
Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

Sign - up sheet for side dishes and desserts is on the bulletin board

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Brian Kenyon
Devo Josh Potvin
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Sunday, July 18, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"The Return of Jesus"
Matthew 24:36-51

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"A Servant and a Steward"
1 Corinthians 4:1-2

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) ... Jimmy Sweeney
Greeter E&C Smith
Song/prayer before class Ian Enamorado
Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
Closing Prayer Andre Medley

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Stewart
P.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer John McShane
Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
Closing Prayer George Davis

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
Devo Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Phil Fife

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
9 - School begins
17 - FSOP ladies' class
21 - Teachers' workshop
24 - ladies' night out

September

4 - Youth group fun
12 - Joey Treat
18 - Youth Seminar

October

2 - Door Knocking
2 - Ladies' Day
Trunk or Treat
(Date TBD)

November

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

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 27	\$5,967.40
July 4	\$8,024.00
July 11	\$6,693.01
Contribution Average	\$7,128.67

- Mark your calendar, August 21 -
Teachers' Workshop for Bible Class Teachers with
April Meacham and Teah McWhorter.
If you are interested in attending, RSVP to the office.

You might be asking yourself, "What is a cornerstone?" A cornerstone is the first stone laid on the foundation of a building. It marks the geographical location by orienting that building in a specific direction. It is the rock upon which the weight of the entire structure rests. Sometimes religious slogans, the name of the architect or the King responsible for building, and the date of construction were inscribed on this stone. Ephesians 2:19-22 reads "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." I think it is important for us to take stock of our cornerstone. Am I letting Jesus orient my direction? Am I letting him carry the weight of my burdens? Does my stability come from Jesus? Is Jesus the architect of my life? Lastly, whose name is inscribed on my cornerstone? Is it Jesus or is it a different name-perhaps my name? It should not be so. If Jesus is not my cornerstone, my life as a Christian is not resting on something sure and steadfast. Remember, "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain;" Psalm 127:1

Preaching that honors God

Preach the word

2 Timothy 4:2

Speaking like God

1 Peter 4:11

Speaking the truth in love

Ephesians 4:15

Preaching what God commands

Jonah 3:2

Preaching sound doctrine

Titus 2:1

Preach Christ

2 Corinthians 4:5

LADIES' CLASS



Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7pm

This month's topic:

Vessels of Honor

2 Timothy 2:20-21

Teacher: Shenia Brownlow-Dindy

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Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



Find us on Facebook

"BUT THE WORD IS VERY NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART, THAT YOU MAY DO IT."

DEUTERONOMY 30:14

**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Return Service Requested