



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

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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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Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
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Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Major Themes From The Old Testament

Joshua Cantrell

When reading the Old Testament we are blessed with an understanding of how God dealt with his people. Each of these books belongs to the canon of Scripture. They are wonderfully laid out for those who study it. All scripture is inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17), thus we have the benefit of learning from it. While we are New Testament Christians today, the Old Testament gives us opportunities to learn from ancient Israel (Rom. 15:4). Each book has a theme that helps us in our relationship with God. Ultimately bringing Jesus into the world (Gen. 3:15). From the first sin recorded in the Bible, we see the overwhelming evidence of God's love. We can take the truths and principles from the Old, that will most assuredly help us in the New.

The Sinfulness of Man, The Heart of God

When we read Genesis 3 we often refer to it as "the fall of man." God specifically told Adam in chapter 2 what he could, and could not have in the garden. We often emphasize the eating of the tree, but we must never forget what truly took place that day. Adam and Eve did not trust God and it caused them to sin. When we do not trust God it will cause us to sin. The sin that Adam and Eve committed is no different from what we do today. John records, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 Jn. 2:15-16). How the Devil tempts us today has not changed.

The focus of Genesis 3 is not the "new" knowledge they possessed after they ate the tree. God wanted them to know they had disobeyed him and his word. Sin is selfish and will often cause us to do irrational things. We know what we should do but we do something else. When we become Children of God our main goal is to please him, not ourselves. Paul declares that we become slaves to righteousness (Rom. 6:17-18). Even with Adam and Eve full of shame and humiliation, God looks for them (Gen. 3:9). When we sin today, the same love God had for his children then is the same love he has for us today. God asks them "Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9). When God asks a question it is not for confirmation, but contemplation. God knew where they were, he wanted them to know as well.

Before the world began God had a plan to save us from our sin (Gen. 3:15). The plan was always his son Jesus Christ. Paul records, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. According to the eternal purpose which he purchased in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Eph. 3:9-11). The Old Testament teaches us that Jesus was coming to save us from sin and to establish His church (Gen. 49:19; Isa. 2:1-2; Isa. 7:14; Isa. 9:6; Dan. 2:44; Micah. 4:1-2). The Jews claim today that Jesus will return to Earth to establish his kingdom. They fail to realize his kingdom has been in existence for over 2,000 years.

While the sin of Adam and Eve changed the way we go through life. It did not change the way God views his children. The love he has for us is displayed in the sending of his Son (Jn. 3:16). Throughout the Old Testament, we see the love of God on full display. The crowning achievement of God's creation is mankind (Psa 8).

We are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26). We are his offspring (Acts. 17:28). We are his sons and daughters (2 Cor. 6:18). We are his workmanship (Eph. 2:10). While the sinfulness of man is seen in Genesis 3, so is the heart of God.

The Accuracy Of The Prophets

The Old Testament makes many statements concerning the coming Messiah and his kingdom. Each of these prophecies is fulfilled during the lifetime of Christ. The accuracy of these prophecies is not by the sheer guess of man, but by God who caused them to happen. Each prophecy reveals the foresight of God as it relates to our salvation from sin. Before the foundation of the world, God had chosen us by him in his son (Eph. 1:4; Col. 1:14). Moses as recorded in the book of Deuteronomy reveals how we can know if a prophet is sent from God or man (Deut. 18). Earlier writers of history wondered if Moses was the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, but he was not.

Moses records, "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." (Deut. 18:18). The prophecy only point to one person, Jesus Christ. While Abraham, Moses, and Joshua, and many others were all instrumental in the work of God, they were not Christ. When a writer begins the process of writing a book they have to go through many thoughts. Ultimately bringing the book to a conclusion. Before the book goes out for retail they know how the story will end. The Prophets of old did not know what they

were writing. The events they wrote down would not come to pass for many years. Each of them never got to see the fulfillment of the prophecies they recorded. Peter records, "Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you." (1 Pet. 1:10).

Isaiah the Prophet wrote concerning a virgin giving birth. He records "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14). The fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in Matthew 1, and Luke 2. The proof that these prophets were inspired by God is overwhelming by the fulfillment of each individual account. Each prophecy they wrote down shows that God has complete control over this world. There was not one prophecy left undone. Although many of these revelations were given originally in the form of a speech or sermon, they were eventually preserved in written form. Numerous references to such written utterances from God are provided in Scripture (2 Chron. 21:12; Isa. 30:8; Jer. 25:13; 29:1; 30:2; 36:2; 51:60; Eze. 43:11; Dan. 7:1; Hab. 2:2).

Complacent or Content

Rick Kenyon

Complacent: "marked by self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies" (merriam-webster.com)

Contented: "feeling or showing satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation" (merriam-webster.com)

Whenever the New Testament mentions contentment, it is in reference to the physical necessities of life (Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Heb. 13:5). Regardless of our financial or socioeconomic status, God's care and love for us is equal. Paul demonstrated with his life that no matter his circumstances God would sustain him to achieve the plans that God had for him. This doesn't always make the physical situations in your life easier, but it does permit the "peace of God" to "guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7, ESV). Contentment means trusting God to provide us with what we need to sufficiently live a godly and peace-filled life full of love and hope.

Hopefully, we strive for contentment and not complacency. If we are not careful, we may confuse the two. Those who uphold the adage "ignorance is bliss" often fall into the complacency category. As Christians, we are to be "sober-minded" and "watchful" (1 Pet. 5:8). We are to prepare our minds for action (1 Pet. 1:13). Accepting our circumstances is one thing but failing to see how that connects to our attitude and effort is another. No matter what, "whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Col. 3:23). Contentment is not the brother to complacency, but apathy is. Be content with what God has given us, but do not grow complacent in our love for Him and fellow man.

Luke 17:11-19 Thank You Lord

Vince Daugherty

Jesus teaches us that God is compassionate. On one occasion, he was met by a group of 10 lepers. They cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Without even touching them, Jesus commanded that they present themselves to the priest, and on their way, they were cleansed.

What great fortune; what great blessing to be in the very region Jesus was passing through, for Him to grant them a request that only He could help. As the 10 went away rejoicing, one soul who realized he had been healed, "returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks." Scripture says the one man was a Samaritan.

We are taught that every good and perfect gift comes from God. However, does every good and perfect gift received, in turn, give a thank you to the Provider? When we fail to do so we become arrogant, entitled, spoiled, bratty, rotten, and forgetful.

Learn to take the time to be mindful and say "thank you Lord, for all that you've done. You have been so good to me!"

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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
 Virginia Walker - health
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery
 Bill Long - cancer treatments
 Geny Johnson - health

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Jimmy Sweeney - shoulder rehab
 George Davis - surgery recovery
 Brenda Mask - health
 Casey Potvin - 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

Casey Potvin is sick with covid

Brenda Mask had a CAT scan.

Campers going to K-5 Bible Camp at WWCC, July 21-23.

Invitation Responses

Jimmy Sweeney asks for prayers to be a better husband, father, Christian, and role model to those he's in contact with.

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

Terrance Dindy, Jr. for the death of his grandfather on Friday, July 15 in Texas.

Remember!

Sundays at 5:45 pm
 Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm
 Pew packers in auditorium

If you are interested in working in the sound booth, please let Jason Hendrix know. He will arrange your training.

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **July 31, 2022.**

if you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo David Williams
 Closing Prayer Wadi Khoury

Sunday, July 24, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Breaking Down Walls ... Joshua Cantrell
Ephesians 2:14-16

6:00 P.M.

The Discovery of a Book ... Joshua Cantrell
2 Chronicles 34:14 Devotional

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Andre Medley
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Lord's Table Tyler Anderson
 Closing Prayer Matt Willcut
 Open/Close bldg (both) Deal
 Greeters Brunson
 Attendance cards (both) Cam'ron, Caelen

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Wayne Shearer
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Josh Estridge
 Greeters Stewart

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo Bobby Sheumaker
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Upcoming Events

July

21-23 - WWCC K-5
 30 - VBS Orange Street
 30 - VBS Eagle Lake
 31 - Fellowship in-service

August

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



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 3 \$7,131.00
 July 10 \$5,282.00
 July 17 \$6,284.75
 Contribution Average \$6,330.46
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

If A Coffee Bean Can Do It, So Can You!

Coffee! Just this word brings pleasant thoughts to most people. Does your name do the same? Coffee begins as a hard, unyielding bean that is placed in hot boiling water and then the bean dissolves. It then changes the same boiling water into a pleasant, aromatic drink that most enjoy. How about you? When you are placed in "hot water" circumstances, how do you respond? Do you change the "water" around you? Or does it change you?

Here's a few ideas to help you become a "coffee bean"

C - Christlike behavior- strive to imitate Christ's example (Rom. 12:2; I Cor. 11:1)

O - Overcome evil with good! (Rom. 12:21; Matt. 5:44)

F - Faith over Fear. Faith and fear cannot live in the same heart (Is. 41:10; all Tim. 1:7)

F - Feed on God's Word. (Phil. 4:8; Mt. 4:4; Ps. 119:67)

E - Evangelize with Eyes that see other as Christ does! (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:10; I Sam. 16:7)

E - Eternity in mind- make every decision with eternity in mind! (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 6:23; Gal. 6:8)

The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.**

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Psalm 1

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*Out of my distress I called on the
Lord;
the LORD answered me and set
me free.*

*The LORD is on my side; I will not
fear.*

What can man do to me?

Psalm 118:5-6



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