



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 29 July 22, 2020

### 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

[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.

## Jesus: Through the Eyes of John

Hiram Kemp

The life of Jesus is the most exceptional and interesting life ever lived. We are able to view the life of Jesus through the gospel accounts written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. While all four gospel accounts are ultimately authored by God, there are different things in each account (2 Tim. 3:16-17). While the first three (the Synoptics) have a great deal of similarity among them, Bible students have correctly noticed that John approaches the life of Christ from a different angle. John's gospel was probably the last one to be written of the four. He does not include information about the miraculous birth of Jesus, nor does he record the Sermon on the Mount. Likewise, he does not mention the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Yet, John's gospel is not inferior in any way to the others. His audience and emphasis differ from the Synoptics, but he gives a glorious picture of the life of Christ, nonetheless.

### The Occasion of Writing

Near the end of the first century when John wrote his gospel there was false doctrine concerning Jesus entering the church (2 Pet. 2:1). Elsewhere John had warned Christians to test the things they were taught so they did not deviate from the truth (1 Jn. 4:1). Some, who were never genuine converts, snuck into the church and were teaching false doctrine about the identity of Jesus (1 Jn. 2:18-19). This group of false teachers were known as the Gnostics (or the knowing ones). They claimed to have special knowledge about Jesus. The Gnostics believed that man's flesh was sinful, but the spirit was not. This caused them to teach that God could not take on human flesh. Therefore, they believed that Jesus did not actually dwell in the flesh as God like the Bible teaches, he did.

As you read the opening statements in John's gospel, he wants us as readers to be sure that we know Jesus was God and He came in the flesh (Jn. 1:1-3, 14). Near the end of the gospel, he records the occasion when Thomas reaches his finger into the literal side of Jesus (Jn. 20:27). John was refuting many of the false doctrine of Gnosticism in his record of Jesus' life. As the last living apostle, it would be important for him to answer this error by inspiration and leave the church with the necessary ammunition to answer these false teachers (1 Thess. 5:21). Now let us notice some of the other major themes that appear throughout the book that we should pick up on as we read.

### Jesus is God

The first verse in John's gospel reads like the first verse in the Book of Genesis. I believe John does this on purpose. He wants his readers to have in mind Jesus' eternity with God as they read about His life (Gen. 1:1). John explicitly calls Jesus God (Jn. 1:1). Jesus was in the beginning with God which means He could not have been created (Jn. 1:2). He goes on to describe Jesus as the one who created everything that we see (Jn. 1:3). As God created light in Genesis, Jesus is described as the one who has light in Himself (Gen. 1:3; John 1:4). Read the first five verses from Genesis 1 and then read John 1:1-5, and notice the similarities for yourself. John wants us to see that the God of the beginning is Jesus, the Christ. Later, Jesus further drives this point home as He teaches on several occasions. Jesus is shown to be God based on His ability to judge (Jn. 5:22). Jesus is also able to do anything the Father does (Jn. 5:17, 19). When Jesus is before the Jews, he quotes Exodus 3:14 to show them that He was existing before Abraham and that He is the great I AM (Jn. 8:58). Jesus is one with the Father (Jn. 10:30). While the other gospel accounts also depict Jesus as God in the flesh, none do so as

as extensively and plainly as the gospel of John. John ends his gospel by telling readers that the purpose of his writing is to convince people of Jesus' identity (Jn. 20:30-31).

### The Signs Performed

John does not record all of the signs that Jesus does; there are too many to write down (Jn. 21:25). He gives a sufficient sampling for those who read his work to come away knowing that Jesus is who He claimed to be. John carefully chooses miracles (or signs) done by Jesus to include in his gospel. Many of the signs John details are not mentioned in the other gospels. For example, John is the only writer who tells us that Jesus turned water into wine (Jn. 2:1-12). No other writer mentions the raising of Lazarus from the grave (Jn. 11:1-46). Jesus opened the eyes of several blind people but the mentioning of the "man born blind" is unique to John (Jn. 9:1-7,32). John shows through powerful signs that Jesus is God in the flesh, and He does the signs which only God could do.

### The Power of Belief

Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 Jn. 5:4). John emphasizes that belief in Jesus is the only way to eternal life. The golden text of the Bible, John 3:16, is a well-known verse which underscores this truth. As we read John (or any New Testament book), we should be mindful that faith means more than mere mental acknowledgment. Faith, as it is used in the John's gospel, means to trust. By trusting in Jesus' identity and finished work on the cross, one could be saved (Jn. 19:30). A failure to trust (i.e. have faith) in Jesus would lead to one being lost. A failure to believe that Jesus is the Son of God would cause one to die in his or her

sins (Jn. 8:21, 24). If the Jews believed Moses' writings, they would believe Jesus (Jn. 5:46-47). Jesus asked His disciples if they believed that He is one with the Father (Jn. 14:10). In the gospel of John, Jesus is the Son of God who calls for people to not only observe His signs but to believe based on the signs and be born again (Jn. 3:3-5).

### The Work of the Holy Spirit

John also gives special information about the Holy Spirit that would go on after Jesus' ascension into heaven. The Holy Spirit (also called the Comforter) would be with the disciples forever (Jn. 14:16). One who is worldly cannot receive the Spirit unless he submits to Christ (Jn. 14:17-18). The Holy Spirit would testify concerning the work of Jesus (Jn. 15:26). The Holy Spirit would also convict the world of sin (through His words) as the apostles preached and wrote what was revealed to them (Jn. 16:7-11). And, the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all of the truth Jesus was unable to share with them during His earthly ministry (Jn. 16:12-13). Jesus later breathes the Holy Spirit onto these men and on Pentecost, they are baptized with the Spirit (Jn. 20:22-23; Acts 2:1-4). John gives us unique insight into the work that the Holy Spirit would be doing through the apostles.

Jesus lived the best life ever. All four gospels show us how wonderful He was in the flesh. God intended for us to have four accounts of the one gospel that tell us about the one Savior. Read the gospel of John. See the signs of Jesus. See Jesus as divine. Trust the Spirit's testimony. Believe, and be saved!

## Senior Saints

by John McShane

In this new normal, many of us seniors are spending a lot more time at home. If you are like me, a lot of spare time is now spent on various social media platforms on the internet. A lot of what I see on them is basically trash and a lot of untruths. Way too often I see where people have shared some of this information, and I ask myself if the person sharing this made any effort to determine if there is any truth to this statement. Fake news and outright lies have become way too prevalent in today's world. As practicing Christians, each of us has the responsibility to ensure what we share with the world is the absolute truth. If we spread untruth, what are people going to believe when we talk to them about Jesus?

**Matthew 15:15-20** reads, "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, FALSE witness, blasphemies: These are [the things] which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man."

Also, we read in the **book of James** "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men."

## TEACHERS AND HELPERS

**An opportunity to be a teacher or helper in our Bible classes is available, even from home. Check your email for details. We need you!**

### Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

**Proverbs 4:1** Hear, children, the instruction of your father, and give attention to know understanding.

**Proverbs 4:4** When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me: Let your heart retain my words.

Solomon wrote Proverbs to pass on wisdom that he had gained to his children. Some of the things he learned, he learned from his father, David. It would be pretty cool to have someone as wise as Solomon as a father, and David as a grandfather. I remember learning a lot from my father growing up. And, I know my father learned a lot from his father before him. What about your father and grandfather? Have you ever asked your father to share some of his wisdom? He might even pass on knowledge he received from your grandfather.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

## PRAYER LIST

Ginny Hamby	Brenda Mask	Kenny French
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); **Carl Chambers**; **Patricia Hewitt** (chemo); **Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland** (Ruby Lewis' nephew, 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); **Elizabeth Dean** (spider bite/possible cancer); **Brandon** (friend of Staci Smith, covid virus in ICU); **Gina** (Kathy Nester's daughter); **Kimi Shearer** (Wayne & Anita Shearer's daughter, Covid exposure); **Melissa Peavy** (Kimi Shearer's friend, has Covid).

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Kenny French** has not been well lately. He might have a kidney stone.

**Frank & Ginny Hamby** have both tested positive with Covid.

**Patti Van Allen** is in Bartow hospital with fluid on the lungs and congestive heart failure. She cannot receive visitors but can get phone calls.

**Kimi Shearer (Wayne & Anita's daughter)** has been exposed to Covid. Her friend, **Melissa Peavy** has the virus.

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

## Thank you

Our dearest family in Christ, our lives are blessed with some of the most amazing people. Thank you for being part of our journey especially during this very difficult time while both our parents were sick & hospitalized. My mom was discharged last week and is back home. My mother-in-law is still in the hospital. We are yet to hear a positive message from the hospital. Please continue to pray for her (Ruth Brunson). We are thankful.

With much love,

**Neyome and Wesley Brunson**

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Andre Medley  
Closing Prayer ..... Allen Grimes

### Sunday, July 26, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"Eternal Lessons from Ecclesiastes"  
Eccl. 1:9-10

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
Q & A

#### 10:30 A.M.

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

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Allen Grimes  
Lord's Table ..... Phil Fife  
Closing Prayer ..... David Anderson

### Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Rick Kenyon  
Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

### 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 28 .....	\$6,526.00
Jul 5 .....	\$7,200.00
Jul 12 .....	\$8,419.00
Jul 19 .....	\$6,984.00
Contribution Average .....	\$7,100.39

Psalm 8:1 "Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!"

Psalm 19:1-2 "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge."

After reading those scriptures, I started wondering on a daily basis, do we really think about the glory of God? I get up each morning and open my front door. The sun has risen and is pouring through the trees so brightly that it is almost blinding. That is our Lord in all his glory. He is communicating with us, not through words but by his glorious sunrises and sunsets day after day. He also caresses us with gentle breezes that refresh us. We can find our Lord in each moment with our eyes and ears. Do we practice looking and listening for him in quiet times? Do we truly seek him? Jeremiah 29:13 states "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart"

## Spiritual Blessings Found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)

*Chosen before the foundation of the world*  
(Ephesians 1:4)

*Adopted as sons and daughters*  
(Ephesians 1:5)

*Blessed and accepted in the beloved*  
(Ephesians 1:6)

*Redemption and the forgiveness of sins*  
(Ephesians 1:7)

*All wisdom and understanding*  
(Ephesians 1:8)

*Knowledge of the mystery*  
(Ephesians 1:9)

*An inheritance*  
(Ephesians 1:11)

*Sealed with the Holy Spirit*  
(Ephesians 1:13-14)

## Marks of a Mature Christian

**Always rejoicing**  
(1 Thess. 5:16)

**Praying incessantly**  
(1 Thess. 5:17)

**Submitting to the Spirit**   **Honoring Prophecy**  
(1 Thess. 5:19)   (1 Thess. 5:20)

**Thankful in all circumstances**  
(1 Thess. 5:18)

**Test all things with Scripture**  
(1 Thess. 5:21)

**Refrains from evil in all aspects**  
(1 Thess. 5:22)

**Allows God to work in and through him/her**  
(1 Thess. 5:23-24)

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