



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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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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Jesus's Prophecy of the Destruction of Jerusalem

Matthew 24:1-35

Vince Daugherty

Jesus's last major discourse recorded by Matthew flowed from a shocking statement that Jesus made concerning the temple at Jerusalem. As Jesus's disciples marveled at the magnificent physical structure of the temple, Jesus said, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matt. 24:2). The disciples took the words of Jesus very seriously. When they had gone out to the Mt. of Olives that overlooks the temple and the city they pressed Him, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3). Jesus's first response, "Take heed that no one deceives you" (Matt. 24:4). Many preachers have made much of Matthew chapter 24, and still many are confused about the words of Jesus and their interpretation. To this end, I want to help you rightly divide this passage that has been used and abused by many to imply things that are simply not there.

Key Verses to Help

The first key verse to help us rightly divide Jesus's words is Matthew 24:34, "Assuredly I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place." We must conclude that the things Jesus said in the previous verses is talking about events that would happen to that current generation. Anyone who looks to this chapter verses 1-35 to use them as proof texts for specific things that will happen at the end of the ages or final judgment is not rightly dividing Scripture. There can general principles that the modern reader can apply, but Jesus's discourse was specifically for that generation.

Another key verse to help us understand the passage is Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, but My Father only." Up to verse 35 Jesus is predicting the fall of the temple, Jerusalem, and the nation of Israel itself. Jesus told of general signs of the coming end (v. 4-14), then He gave more specific signs (v. 15-31), and told a parable about reading the signs (v. 32,33). At Matthew 24:36 Jesus then shifts to talk about the final day and hour. From verse 36 onward Jesus tells about final judgment that even extends through the end of chapter 25.

When one sees the division between the first half of Jesus's discourse, referring to the destruction of Jerusalem, and the second half about the final judgment one can then better interpret the words of Jesus. If Jesus was only giving crucial information for Christians who live in the last days, what help would it be for Christians who were living at the time of Jesus? Hence why we must properly understand Matthew 24:34, this was a prophecy that would come to pass during "this generation".

What was/is the Benefit of Jesus's Prophecy?

A logical question may arise, if Jesus is merely talking about the destruction of Jerusalem what good does it do for me now some almost 2,000 years removed from the event? We often want to decipher Scripture's relevance to me now without gaining a proper perspective of what was intended to the first audience. The first ones to know about this prophecy, the disciples, were to be God's special witnesses who would testify about Jesus and His identity.

In the section concerning the general signs of the coming destruction of Jerusalem Jesus said, “many will come in my name, saying “I am the Christ, and will deceive many” (v. 4) and also, “many false prophets will rise up and deceive many” (v. 11). Even at the time of Jesus’s prophecy being fulfilled there would be a lot of false information circulating and the Church would need faithful and true witnesses to set the record straight. Just like then, there are many now who are deceived or false prophets that prey on the fears and anxieties of religious people and are swept away by confusion. Jesus finished the section on the general signs saying, “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” The disciples who would preach the gospel, including Jesus’s prediction of the fall of Jerusalem would act as a witness that the one saying these things is true, both the messenger (the apostles), and the Source (Jesus the Christ). When Jerusalem fell in AD 70 the prophecy that Jesus made almost 40 years earlier would confirm Jesus’s ability to predict the future, an indicator of His truthfulness as the Prophet. This would confirm the faith of those who trusted in Jesus, and would have given opportunity to doubters to come to faith.

Further, Jesus gave specific information to Christians living in the region about the exact timing when these things would take place. “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (Matt. 24:15,16). Jesus

gave specifics about the coming destruction to warn Christians in the area to flee for their lives. The specific sign was when they saw the Roman armies closing in, it was time to go. In the spring of AD 70, historians Josephus, Eusebius, and Eppiphanius and others record that some Jews fled out of the city of Jerusalem and many relocated to Pella among other places to escape the sword of Rome. Though the downfall of their nation would have been a terrible thing to suffer through, it would be comforting to Christians to watch for the signs and preserve their lives. On the flipside, those who doubted or scoffed at Jesus’s words would have stayed and suffered through “great tribulation” (v. 21). Historians also record that millions of Jews lost their lives, some even through cannibalism and starvation. Those looking for modern interpretations of these signs are about 2,000 years late. Of the destruction of Jerusalem there was a means of escape, see verses 16-20. Contrast those verses with verses 38-42 where there is no specific time, and no escape possible at the final judgment.

The most difficult verses to contend with are verses 29-31. Sequence it in order, understand apocalyptic language, and remember it is happening during that generation. After the tribulation could come the complete destruction. In figurative language Jesus describes the fall in apocalyptic language. This type of language is used when referring to the end of an era, age, or epoch of time. The same language is applied in Joel 2/Acts 2 signifying the end of Mosaic Law/Judaism. For many this would have felt like the end of the world. Something had come to an end, but it was the final end. The Mosaic law/Judaism gave way to Christ’s Law/Christian age. Here too, the destruction of Jerusalem to Jews would have felt like this must be the end of the world. The great end was God’s emphatic sign was that He was done with the physical temple and the physical nation of Israel. Notice what verse 31 says, “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” The term “angels” is not to be interpreted as heavenly beings, but messengers who preach the gospel. Those who rightly interpret the signs are those who rightly identify Jesus by the things in which He said and did. That is true of those living in the first century, and is still true for us living in this current century. An even greater advantage we may have is that we have those things confirmed through careful study of Scriptures and history. Have you properly identified the signs of Jesus? On the day of final judgment many will mourn that they did not properly interpret His words.

Weeki Wachee K-5 Bible Camp



Clark, Sawyer, Declan, Ellis, Judah
Not pictured - Rissa and Harper

Bible Trivia on Kahoot!

Starting August 4 at 7:00 pm.
Quarterly challenge is Aug. 31

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
 Darlene Thompson - covid
 Bitsy Thomas - injury

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
 Bobby Sheumaker - 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

Darlene Thompson tested positive for covid
Bobby Sheumaker tested positive for covid
Olivia and Sophia Smith are on a mission trip
Bitsy Thomas fell and broke her ankle

Weekly prayer time for our evangelism efforts every Sunday evening 5:45 pm in the fellowship hall

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

thank you

There are cards on the bulletin board from

Brenda Mask

Debbie Bush

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 27, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Sunday, July 31, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Mystery Revealed ... Joshua Cantrell
Ephesians 3:1-7

6:00 P.M.

Stewards of the Mystery ... Vince Daugherty
Ephesians 3:8-13

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard
 Open/Close bldg (both) Hendrix
 Greeters Bingle
 Attendance cards (both) Klark, Ellis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Peyton/Landan Willcutt
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Cam'ron Bailey
 Greeters Stewart

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Vince Daugherty
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

July

30 - VBS Orange Street
 30 - VBS Eagle Lake
 31 - Fellowship in-service

August

1 - Senior Saints meeting
 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 10 \$5,282.00
 July 17 \$6,284.75
 July 24 \$7,602.00
 Contribution Average \$6,372.85
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

John 14:6

I am the way:

God's way is above that of man (*Isaiah 55:7-9*)
 Jesus' way leads us to God (*John 14:5-6*)
 God's way is perfect (*Psalms 18:30*)

I am the truth:

Teach me your truth so I can live faithfully (*John 8:31-32; Psalm 25:5*)
 The truth makes one free from sin (*John 8:31-32*)
 God's word is truth (*John 17:17*)

I am the life:

Eternal life is in Christ (*1 John 5:11-13; John 3:14-15*)
 Jesus Christ is our life (*Colossians 3:1-4*)
 Jesus is the bread of life (*John 6:35, 47-48, 51*)

Let us forsake our way, seek God's truth in His word and follow Christ's example so we can have eternal life.

Psalm 2

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
 You have given me relief when I was in distress.
 Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
 How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? Selah
 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
 the Lord hears when I call to him.

Be angry, and do not sin;
 ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah
 Offer right sacrifices,
 and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
 Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!"
 You have put more joy in my heart
 than they have when their grain and wine abound.

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
 for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue
 CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

Salvation belongs to
 the Lord;
 your blessing be on
 your people!

Psalm 3:8



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