



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ

MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 30 July 28, 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

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

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.

A Warning About Our Tongue

Hiram Kemp

One study has found that we speak on average about 7,000 words each day.¹ That is 49,000 words each week; 2,555,000 words each year. We need to use our speech to communicate but with so many words coming out of our mouths, we should also be careful. The Bible has much to say about our tongues and how we use them. There are positive uses of the tongue that the Bible encourages us to engage in. There are negative uses of our tongues that the Bible warns us against. Here are a few warnings about our tongues from scripture that we would be wise to heed.

Our Words Will be Judged

On one occasion Jesus' opponents accused him of casting out demons by the power of Satan (Matt. 12:24). Jesus shows them the inconsistency in their logic, then He issues one of His strongest warnings about the way we use our tongues (Matt. 12:25-35). Jesus says, "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37, ESV). Based on Jesus' declaration that our words will play an important factor in the judgment we should be careful. We will appear before God and be judged for everything we have done, whether it was good or bad; including our speech (2 Cor. 5:10).

We may not give much attention to the words we speak, but Jesus tells us that we should. Does the idea of "every careless" word you have spoken being brought into judgment terrify you? If it does, then we should be more careful and cautious when we speak. Words are easy to say and impossible to retrieve once spoken (Prov. 13:3). Death and life are in the power of our tongues (Prov. 18:21). If we want to keep our souls from trouble, we must learn to keep control of our tongue (Prov. 21:23). Wicked people are ensnared by their words, but the just escape trouble (Prov. 12:13). What a shame to be eternally lost because we could not control our speech! Controlling our speech may involve saying fewer words or weighing our words before we speak them, but it will be worth it (Prov. 25:11).

Inconsistent Speech is Condemned

James is a practical book that addresses daily Christian living. It includes some helpful things to say about the way we use our speech. If we claim to be religious and fail to control our tongue, our religion is useless (James 1:26). We are to speak as those who will be judged by the law of liberty (James 2:12). Though the tongue is a small body part among our members, its power should not be underestimated (James 3:3-6). As difficult as it is to tame our tongue, it is something God wants us to do as Christians (James 3:2). We often use our tongues to sing God's praises and to pray to Him, but beware if we also use them to curse others or tear them down. James says, "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so" (James 3:9-10).

¹ <https://learning.linkedin.com/blog/advancing-your-career/you-speak--at-least--7-000-words-a-day--here-s-how-to-make-them->

Reading James' warnings and rebukes for those who misuse their speech is a sobering exercise for me. We should all evaluate our speech and see if we are violating what James says should not be in James 3:9-10. One of the things Jesus hated most was hypocrisy (cf. Matt. 23:13, 23:15, 23:23, 23:25). Hypocrisy, as defined by scripture, is playing a role. Hypocrisy is to pretend to be one way but to not actually be sincere. Is our speech hypocritical? Do we pretend to be pious and devout in our prayers, but in actuality, we are slanderers, backbiters, and gossips (Eph. 4:29)? Do we sing about brotherly love but fail to build each other up with our words? We are to encourage each other daily. One way we can do this is with the words that we say (Hebrews 3:13).

Blessing and cursing should not come from the same mouth just like freshwater and bitter water should not come from the same spring (James 3:11). How is our speech when we get angry (cf. Eph. 4:26)? How do we talk when there are no other Christians around? How do we address those in our homes when we are frustrated? What do we type or endorse on social media? Do we listen and watch things that may plant seeds of bad speech in our minds (Philippians 4:8)? Whenever a Christian opens his or her mouth, God expects the speech to be seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6) because we are the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13). When our speech is inconsistent, it not only hurts our influence with men on earth, but it disappoints our God in heaven!

Telling the Truth

The truth sets us free (Jn. 8:32). We are sanctified by the truth as well (Jn. 17:17). The truth must not only be believed by God's people, it must be spoken by us as well. Lying will send us to hell just as much as any other sin we fail to repent (Rev. 21:8). As we have put on the new man in Christ, we are to put lying to death (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9). God's people are to buy the truth and refuse to sell it (Prov. 23:23).

Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

**Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
the Youth Group will get
together and play**

Bible Trivia on Kahoot!

**Please contact Vince to get
the log on information**

Next week:

Survey of the New Testament

In a world of "fake news" and misinformation, we need to be careful not to contribute to the problem. The things we say on any subject should be factual, beneficial, and trustworthy. Sometimes the world approves of telling "white lies" or tells us that it is ok to lie about "small things", but God never endorses dishonesty.

We need to speak the truth in every area of our lives. We should speak the truth in matters of religion because we know the truth saves people (1 Tim. 2:4). They who are lost need to know what the Bible says so that they can obey it and be saved. Be truthful with our friends and loved ones. It is tempting to tell them what we know they want to hear rather than what they need to hear. One of the saddest stories in the Old Testament is where a young prophet is deceived by an older prophet and he dies as a result (1 Kings 13:18). Lies carry consequences. We do no one a favor when we withhold the truth from them or misinform them. The Devil is the father of lies, but our Father is a God of truth (Isa. 65:16; Jn. 8:44). We should guard our tongues against lying and be committed to always telling the truth. We all fall short on occasion in the use of our tongues and could better use our speech to uplift others and praise God. If we keep these divine reminders before us, they may help us to guard our speech (Psa. 39:1). God has blessed us with a mouth to speak. Let us use it in a way that does good and not harm. Let us say with the Psalmist, "...my mouth will not transgress" (Psa. 17:3)!

TEACHERS AND HELPERS

If you are interested in teaching or helping for the upcoming quarter (starts Sept. 6), please see Vince for details.

Senior Saints

by John McShane

Today I am going to pass on some advice that I found from an article on Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It was not raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

And finally, no matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. He has promised us in Matthew 28-20 "and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world".

I hope you find this advice useful in your life.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Ginny Hamby
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt
Margaret Norman
Carlene Long
Cierra Edwards
Ron & Judy Ford
Sharon M. Washington
Neil Entwistle
George Davis

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); 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); Elizabeth (Tubbs) Dean (possible cancer); Carl Chambers; Patricia Hewitt (chemo); Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland (Ruby Lewis' nephew); Tim Kenyon (Brian's brother); Gene Johnson (Mark Johnson's father); Harold Barker's family (Darlene Thompson's cousin); Cooper Terry (18 year old son of Jeff Bingle's coworker); Brandon (friend of Staci Smith); Gina (Kathy Nester's daughter); Kimi Shearer (Wayne & Anita Shearer's daughter); Melissa Peavy (Kimi Shearer's friend); Carter Hancock (TGH, burn unit); Tina Thomas & Diana Ashley (friends of Sharon Washington).

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask	Kenny French
Linda McShane	Brian Smith
Bernetta Green	Ray Nashick
Bobby Simpson	Bob Pratt
Ellen Shearer	Geny Johnson
Stacey Paulin	Jim Turner
Annette Phillip	Margaret Coone
Antoine & Marcella Swain	
Bruce Longfellow	

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
Devo Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, August 2, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"The Bible on the Human Body"
Philippians 3:21

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"The Greatness of John the Baptist"
Matthew 11:11

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) ... Jimmy Sweeney
Song before class Tucker Sweeney
Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer David Williams
Lord's Table Alex Parramore
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
Lord's Table Alex Parramore
Closing Prayer David Deal

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
Devo Rick Kenyon
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

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 ~

Jul 12	\$8,419.00
Jul 19	\$6,984.00
Jul 26	\$4,948.00
Contribution Average	\$7,028.64

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

Sisters Sending Sunshine

Ladies of SFA, if you would like to participate in a fun way to encourage other SFA ladies by anonymously sending cards or tokens of appreciation & encouragement, please contact Rene' Bingle. She will get you paired with a sister to send some sunshine to brighten her days.

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11

Never Give Up

As a small child, one of the memories I have is going to church services with my mom and my dad dropping us off at the door, but my dad never making his way through the door. When I grew up and had children of my own, it started to really bother me. The thought of wanting to go to heaven, but never seeing my dad again really weighed on me. He was Catholic and truly believed that because he was a good guy and God was such a loving God, he would surely go to heaven. After countless conversations with almost no hope left, I mentioned to a fellow Christian friend and our minister to start visiting with him. Also a friend that lived at his assisted living facility started talking with him. Quite some time later, I got a call from our minister that my dad at 91 years of age wanted to be baptized. *"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not"* (Galatians 6:9). *"Be strong therefore and let not your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded"* (2 Chronicles 15:7).

Never give up when a soul is on the line.

Suffering in 1 Peter

Christ suffering prophesied
(1 Peter 1:10-11)

Righteous suffering is gracious
(1 Peter 2:19-20)

Christ is an example of suffering
(1 Peter 2:21)

Suffering is a blessing
(1 Peter 3:14)

It is good to suffer for good
(1 Peter 3:17)

Christian suffering is glorious
(1 Peter 4:16)

Christians suffer throughout the world
(1 Peter 5:9)

God will strengthen us after suffering
(1 Peter 5:10)

In the Morning

Joy comes in the morning
(Psalm 30:5)

Jesus prayed in the morning
(Mark 1:35)

God brings justice in the morning
(Zephaniah 3:5)

God's wakes us in the morning to listen
(Isaiah 50:4)

God's mercies are new every morning
(Lamentations 3:23)

God is our arm of strength in the morning
(Isaiah 33:2)

God marked the days with the morning
(Genesis 1)

Abraham obeyed God early in the morning
(Genesis 22:3)

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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