



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

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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Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

DRAWING OUT WHAT GOD PUT IN

Brian R. Kenyon

One of the biggest detriments to spreading the Gospel is the fact there are some many denominations dotting the landscape that claim to follow Jesus and the Bible. It is no wonder then that Paul wrote in conjunction with Jesus' prayer for unity (Jn. 17:20-21), that "you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). The only way to discern between true and false religion and/or doctrine is to allow the Bible to be our sole guide. For this to happen, we must approach God's word in the right way (cf. Isa. 1:18).

BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

In studying the Bible, we must want to know what God teaches rather than "confirm" what we already believe. This is part of what Jesus meant when He said to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Mt. 6:33 cf. Mt. 5:6). This attitude is displayed perfectly twice in the Book of Acts. First, when Philip joined the chariot carrying the Ethiopian eunuch, he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?," to which the nobleman answered, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:30-31). With that attitude, the outcome is predictable, "What hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). Second, when Peter finally came to Cornelius and his household, the centurion declared that "we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God" (Acts 10:33). Again, with an attitude like that, the outcome is predictable, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:47-48). In having the right attitude, we must know and be confident that the Bible contains all the answers we need (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). Additionally, we must not be afraid of truth (Jn. 8:31-32; 17:17). People sometimes try explaining away truth that contradicts what they already believe. However, in order for us to be the people God wants, we must base our conclusions on evidence (1 Thes. 5:21-22). There is no other way to be a faithful disciple of Christ than to "observe all things that I [Jesus] have commanded you" (Mt. 28:20), whether we are "newborn babes" in Christ or mature Christians (cf. Heb. 5:12-6:2; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18).

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "EXEGESIS" AND "EISEGESIS"

These fancy words are easy to understand. The prefix "ex-" means "out of" (like exit) and "-gesis" means to draw out. Thus, "exegesis" means to draw out. When dealing with studying God's word, it means to draw out what is already in the Bible. The prefix "eis-" means "into." Thus, "eisegesis" means to put something into the Bible that is not already there. We can easily see that "exegesis" is the only God-approved way of studying the Bible (cf. Mt. 18:18; 2 Tim. 2:15).

There are three major ways that “eisegesis” (reading into the Bible what is not there) reveals itself. First, using language not in the Bible is a dead-give-away. For example, “the rapture” is spoken of throughout the denominational world as if it were a settled fact, yet the term nowhere occurs in major English translations. Yes, there is a word translated “caught up” (from *harpatzo*, ἀρπάζω — the same word from which “harpoon” comes), but the term “rapture” is foreign to the Bible. It has been “read into” it! The slogan, “Call Bible things by Bible names,” is biblical. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11).



Second, finding doctrines not in the Bible is a dead-give-away of eisegesis. The doctrine of “original sin,” while very popular among denominationalism, is completely foreign to the Bible. This doctrine teaches that all humans after Adam inherit the spiritual guilt of Adam’s sin. Romans 5:12 is often used by proponents, but they leave off the final clause in the verse. Yes, death passed to all people as a result of Adam’s sin, but not because of Adam’s sin. Rather, it was because “all sinned” (Rom. 5:12). If original sin were true, how could Able be good being a direct descendant of Adam (Gen. 4:1-4)? The truth is we do not inherit Adam’s sin (cf. Gen. 1:26-27; Eccl. 7:29; Ezk. 18:20). Infant baptism is another example of “eisegesis.” It is built from the false premise that because humans inherit the guilt of Adam’s sin, babies must be “baptized” to wash away “Adamic sin.” Such cannot be true. Biblical baptism requires faith and repentance (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38), which are impossible for infants who cannot even sin (cf. 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17; Jas. 4:17).

Third, seeing current events as fulfilment of specific prophecies is a dead-give-away of eisegesis. Throughout the centuries, it seems the latest bad guy has been the one, according to some, who fulfills John’s teaching as the person having the “mark of the beast” (Rev. 13:18). My earliest memory of this supposed person was Henry Kissinger, but others all the way up to Vladimir Putin have been assumed to be that one! However, the Book of Revelation was written to a specific people (Rev. 1:4, 9-11), who were instructed in figurative language (i.e., apocalyptic) to recognize those who were following Satan, having the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16-17; 14:9-11; 16:2; 19:20), and those who were following God, having been sealed, or marked, by Him (Rev. 7:3-4; 9:4; 20:4). Applying Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as the fulfilment of prophecy is also an example of eisegesis. The final manifestation of God’s kingdom this side of eternity is already here in the church of Christ (Mt. 16:18-19, 28; Mk. 9:1; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:41, 47 cf. Col. 1:13; 1 Thes. 2:12; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:9). There are no “signs of the times” by which to measure the arrival of Christ (Mt. 24:36-39).

Here are four ways to make sure we are doing “exegesis” (drawing out of the Bible what is already there). First, read and study the text as best we can *before* consulting outside sources (cf. 1 Tim. 4:13, 15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Rev. 1:3). Too often, we see what others have said before getting a handle on the text ourselves. Second, let the context within the context speak for itself. For example, in response to his question, “What must I do to be saved?,” the Philippian jailor was told to “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 16:30-31). The context, however, includes baptism in believing. After he was baptized (Acts 16:33), the jailor “rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household” (Acts 16:32-34). Third, let the Bible speak for itself on any given theme. For example, when the Bible is allowed to speak for itself, “baptism with the Holy Spirit” (Mt 3:11-12) is clearly indicated to have happened only on the apostles and the household of Cornelius (cf. Acts 1:5; 10:44-48; 11:15-17). “The entirety of Your word is truth” (Ps. 119:160). We must consider “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Mt. 4:4 cf. 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:3).

God Is Perfectly Capable Of Communicating to US!



CONCLUSION

The Bible is the mind of God revealed (1 Cor. 2:6-16). In order to draw from God’s mind what He intended, we must seriously study and allow His word, the Bible, to speak for itself and instruct us (Ps. 19:7-11). Let us not be afraid of learning truth and applying it to our lives so that we, like Jesus, may “always do those things that please Him” (Jn. 8:29).

PRAYER LIST

Current Bea Pratt's 96 year old sister Mildred Frances has pneumonia and is in the hospital in Kentucky, Marissa Estridge had surgery on her knee, Shirley Loudermilk (health), Melissa Craft is home now but still needs our prayers.

Continual: Wayne Shearer (health); Declan Potvin (eye); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Kathy Nester (health); Melody Baxter (health)

BEGINNING SUNDAY, AUG. 6, WE WILL MODIFY THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN DOING THE LORD'S SUPPER. WE WILL START PASSING AGAIN THE COMMUNION PLATES WITH THE PRE-PACKAGED ELEMENTS. WE WILL ALSO PASS THE CONTRIBUTION PLATES. THOSE WHO STILL PREFER TO PICK-UP THEIR OWN PACKETS MAY DO SO.

*Dear Elders, ministers, deacons and congregation,
I appreciate so very much all everyone has done for my family and I. All the prayers, cards of love, care and encouragement, dinners, and financial help, donations to FSOP, and phone calls have helped me through my daughter's death and my brother Frank's death from cancer. Keep my grandchildren and I in your prayers. The grandkids are having a hard time about their mom Gina's passing. They were very close to her. Thanks to Jagie and Marion for helping with my home, since my surgeries I have not been able to do much. There is so much I can say about each and every one of you. I love you all. Kathy Nester and family*

Our young men who participated in the Youth led service last Sunday evening did a wonderful job!! Make sure you encourage them to continue using their God given talents to serve Him! Thank you to Vince as well for his work with our youth! *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit in faith, in purity. (1 Tim 4:12)*

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder..... David Anderson

Wednesday, Aug 2, 2023

Announcements..... Tyler Anderson
Song Leader/prayer..... Terrance Dindy
Devotional Vince Daugherty
Prayer..... Tim Croson

Sunday, August 6, 2023

10:30 A.M.
Sermon..... Rick Kenyon
"The Day of Salvation" (11 Cor. 6:1-3)

6:00 P.M.
Sermon..... Josh Potvin
"Simon Peter and the Keys to the Particular Kingdom" (Is. 22:22)

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class..... David Williams
Song Leader (both services)..... Tucker Sweeney
Announcements (both) Jimmy Sweeney
Scripture reading/Prayer..... Josh Estrdge
Lord's Table (both)..... Andre Medley
Closing Prayer..... David Deal
Open/Close bldg (both)..... David Deal
Greeters..... D & N Williams
Attendance cards (both)..... Declan/Ellis
Sound Booth (both)..... Jason Hendrix

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
Closing Prayer George Beals
Greeters PM..... Phil and Dottie Fife

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader/prayer..... Terrance Dindy
Devotional Kyle Faneuf
Prayer Wadi Khoury

Upcoming Events 2023

August

4-6 Teen Recharge Retreat WWCC
5 VBS North Lakeland 9:30 am
5 Baby Shower for Heidi (Bingle) Rhymes
5 VBS Pinecastle church of Christ
8 FSOP Ladies class @ 7:00 PM
13 Elders/Deacons Meeting
19 Men's breakfast Haines City
27 Fellowship in Service

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 16.....\$6,001.00
July 23.....\$4,706.00
July 30\$10,663.00
Contribution Average.....\$6,986.13
Weekly budget \$7,410.00



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 PM on these dates
with instructor Susan Stearsman

August 8, 2023	January 15-18, 2024 - 49th Annual Lectureship
September 12, 2023	February 20, 2024
October 24, 2023	March 12, 2024
November 14, 2023 - at 6:00 PM this class only	April 9, 2024
December 12, 2023	May 14, 2024
	June 11, 2024
	July 9, 2024



TEEN RECHARGE WWCC 2023

Investigating the reality of the resurrection

It really happened In Real Life!

August 4-6

For ages 12-18

Register before July 20 to guarantee a t-shirt

Register at <https://forms.gle/pkSTwZfRw5x2YPhU9>

If you have any questions, please contact Vince Daugherty (740) 801-1106 or email vdaughero81013@gamil.com

SPIRITUALLY RESTLESS

Are you spiritually restless? Do you feel like you have no purpose or place in the body of Christ? Are you struggling to plug-in with other Christians? Do you feel disconnected from God or wonder if what you are doing is even beneficial? "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8) Know that you are not alone. God sees you and He has a purpose for you. God wants you to know that you belong. Just read 1 Corinthians 12 and you will see that! God loves you. You have intrinsic worth simply because you exist. "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) Do you ever struggle with this idea of intrinsic worth? You and me both. You cannot earn God's love. No amount of good deeds or hard work will earn it because He gives it freely. He created you. He values you more than you can even imagine! So, just in case you need to hear it... You. Belong. Here. You have a seat at this table... at His table. God can do wondrous things through you. Don't grow weary, and don't give up. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Youth Section

Vince Daugherty

Lesson's from II Timothy

When things get tough (II Timothy 3: 10-14)

When things get tough you will revert back to what you know. This is natural. Paul told Timothy that he had carefully followed his example-- my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and perseverance. Why? What was the point of following Paul's way of being? Paul knew what Timothy's calling would look like, he said, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (v. 12). Paul remembered back to the persecutions he faced in Antioch, Iconium, and Listeria yet each time he said "the Lord delivered me". Timothy could come through tough times if he had developed his character of life to the point that doing what was pleasing to God was a habit, something that just came naturally. How does one go through life and naturally or instinctually do it God's way? By discipline, the doctrine by which you live, how you conduct yourself in day to day life, knowing your purpose, willingness to suffer long, loving when it is difficult and sticking with things to the end.



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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"The Lord upholds all who fall,
And raises up all who are bowed down."**

Psalm 145:14



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