



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 31 August 4, 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

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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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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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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.

What The Bible Teaches About Rest

Hiram Kemp

We live in a world where work is important. There is nothing wrong with work. Before sin entered the world, God gave Adam a job to do (Gen. 2:15). We are told to do all of our work as if we are working for the Lord (Col. 3:23-24); and to do our work with all of our might, giving it our absolute best (Eccl. 9:10). The Bible places a responsibility on us to work if we want to survive. Far too many people simply want a hand-out. Yet, for all that the Bible says about work, it says as much about the value of rest. While none of us should want to “rust out” from inactivity, we should be careful not to “burn out” from overdoing it. Notice the theme of rest as it runs throughout the scriptures.

God Rested and Israel’s Sabbath

The creation week was a busy week for God. In six days, God created everything in the heavens and the earth; and it was all very good (Gen. 1:31). On the seventh day, God rested from His created work (Gen. 2:1-2). The seventh day was blessed and sanctified because God chose to rest on the seventh day. This set a pattern to later be followed by the Israelites. God was not tired or worn out from creating the world, but He did stop creating (Psa. 121:3). God could have kept creating if He wanted to, but He chose to stop. God was not losing power or running out of ideas. He had accomplished all that He wanted to at this point. He was satisfied with what He had done, and this allowed Him to step away.

God later commanded Israel to keep the Sabbath day as a part of the law of Moses. This command was given on two separate occasions, and a different reason was given each time. The first time Moses gave the command to keep the Sabbath, he said the reason for the command was because God created the world in six days and rested the seventh day (Exod. 20:8-11). God’s choice to rest on the seventh day should be followed by His people as they prepared to enter the land of Canaan. The next time Moses gave the command to keep the Sabbath, he said it should be done because they were slaves in Egypt but were now free people (Deut. 5:13-15). God had freed Israel from servitude under Pharaoh. They were not to become slaves to their work. The entire land of Israel was to enjoy a Sabbath rest every seven years (Lev. 25:1-7). The reasons for these breaks and rest in the workweek of Israel was designed to build trust in their God. Israel needed to know that if they stopped working for a day, the world would not collapse because God upholds the world by His power, not by the work of humanity (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3). As with much of the rest of the law, Israel failed to keep the Sabbath, and they were led into captivity as a result of their defiance (Jer. 17:19-27, 25:7-11). The Sabbath has been nailed to the cross with the rest of the Old Testament law, and Christians are not bound to keep the Sabbath (Col. 2:14). However, the principle of rest and trusting God is still one we need to practice.

Jesus Rested

There has never been anyone who has accomplished as much as Jesus did in His life on earth as quickly as He did it. Read the gospel of Mark and get a glimpse of how fast-paced Jesus’ life was. He was always busy healing, preaching, praying, or helping someone in need. He did many things and did all of them well (Mk. 7:37). Jesus was serious about making the most of the time before Him and doing the work His Heavenly Father assigned Him (Jn. 4:34, 9:4). Still, He knew how to stop and rest.

Jesus would get away from the crowds and be alone when He needed time to Himself (Mk. 1:35) He took a nap on a boat as He traveled to do more of His work (Mk. 4:38). After He fed the 5,000, He sent everyone away and was by Himself alone (Matt. 14:22-23). Sometimes He would come into a town and did not want anyone to know He was there (Mk. 7:24).

Perhaps the most memorable words of Jesus on the subject of rest are found in a conversation He had with His apostles: "And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest awhile." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat." (Mk. 6:31, ESV). Jesus told them to come away and rest because they had been unable to stop for a meal. He knew they were doing important work, but He also knew they could only be successful if they could get a break and have their strength replenished. Sometimes Christians do not feel comfortable taking time for rest. The line of reasoning may be "The devil never takes a break, so neither can I." Remember, we are trying to be like God and not like the Devil. God rested after creation, and He also rested when He came in the flesh.

Heavenly Rest

For Christians, there is a heavenly rest to anticipate (Heb. 4:9). When we get to heaven, we will rest from our labors and our works will follow us there (Rev. 14:13). The rest in heaven will not mean we will never do anything else. When the Bible speaks of us resting in eternity, it means there is a certain type of striving and working that will no longer be necessary. We are always to abound in the work of the Lord here (1 Cor. 15:58), but in heaven, we will be in the Lord's presence. We will not have to labor in heaven like we did on earth. Jesus promised a rest to those who came to Him (Matt. 11:28). There is a rest we enjoy right now in Christ, but there is also an eternal rest we look forward to in the future.

TACO TUESDAY AT THE KEMPS AUGUST 18

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to attend.

Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

Psalm 119:105 - "**Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.**"

God's word shows us where we stand. What if you found yourself in a damp dark cave with no light. You step in something squishy and wet. If you had a lamp, you could know what your feet are standing in. Jesus says that the wise man stands on the solid rock. But the fool stands on shifting sand. How tragic would it be to have no light to know where my feet stood.

God's word shows us which direction to go. What if you found yourself in a spooky forest and did not know which path to take? Jesus told His disciples to walk the straight and narrow path, and avoid the broad way because it leads to destruction. God's word lights up the right path. Let us be good disciples of Jesus and follow His path.

Resting Today

I hope we all take our role as disciples of Jesus seriously. Nevertheless, I hope we also take what the Bible teaches concerning the need for rest seriously as well. Allow yourself time away from your work. Get away from the crowds. It is healthy to take a day off where we can pray, read scripture, enjoy family and all of the blessings God gives us (James 1:17). We cannot do everything all of the time, and we must set boundaries for ourselves lest we shorten our years of service to the Lord through overexertion. The key is to be balanced in our work. Take vacations when you can, take days off (and really allow it to be a day off), refuse to be on call all the time. There is only one who needs to be available to everyone all the time: God (Psa. 50:15, 55:17).

Sometimes our inability to shut down our bodies and our brains is evidence that we think we are responsible for more than we are. We are not God; God is God all by Himself (Isa. 44:6). God delights in our work for Him, but if and when we rest, His work will still continue. Be busy for the Lord, but not too busy to take a break; it's biblical (Gen. 2:1-3)!



Ginny Hamby

received her eternal reward on

Monday, August 3, 2020

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"
Revelation 14:13

Senior Saints

by John McShane

Today, I want to take a look at Psalm 118:24, then look at ways to make it happen. The Psalm reads, "**This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it**".

Here are some ways you can rejoice and be glad.

1. Think that good things will happen.
2. Express gratitude to a loved one.
3. Put your gripes away in a long term storage box and forget where you put it.
4. Be patient with an annoying person.
5. Do something special for yourself.
6. Reach out to someone that needs comfort.
7. Focus deeply on each moment and find the good in it.
8. Learn from a mistake.
9. Look closely at a flower or tree that you haven't noticed before.
10. SMILE!

Number 8 may be hard for those of us that have never made a mistake, but that day is coming.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Frank 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 M. Washington	Annette Phillip	Margaret Coone
Neil Entwistle	Antoine & Marcella Swain	
George Davis	Bruce Longfellow	

PRAYER LIST

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); **Melissa Peavy** (Kimi Shearer's friend); **Carter Hancock** (TGH, burn unit); **Tina Thomas & Diana Ashley** (friends of Sharon Washington), **Beverly Kinsey** (Debbie Bush's sister-in-law).

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Frank Hamby and family.

Janis Waldon is scheduled for CT scan Wednesday morning.

RESPONSES

Ingrid Stewart requests prayers to be a better wife, mother & Christian example and for physical and emotional strength, also.

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

To **Bettye Bolding** on the passing of her sister-in-law, Bonnie Bolding Swearingen, on August 2, 2020.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES

Please provide the elders, Hiram, or the office with updates of those on our prayer lists.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

As a reminder, the next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be August 30.

If you would like to give additional funds at other times of the month, 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

August

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley

Devo Rick Kenyon

Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

Sunday, August 9, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"The Perfect Church" Ephesians 4:1-16

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"Sweet Vindication" Acts. 16:16-40

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Brian Kenyon

Song before class Brian Kenyon

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker

A.M. Song Leader David Williams

Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson

Lord's Table Andre Medley

Closing Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney

Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Potvin

Lord's Table Andre Medley

Closing Prayer David Anderson

Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting
August 9th at 4:30 p.m., library

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty

Devo Andre Medley

Closing Prayer David Deal

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

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 19	\$6,984.00
Jul 26	\$4,948.00
Aug 2	\$9,322.00
Contribution Average	\$7,102.62

Revelation is a book people often avoid because of its apocalyptic language and imagery. However, John's language and the revelation given to him by God (Rev. 1:1-2) make this book one the Christian should be eager to read. Here are a few things I learned while studying this beautiful book.

One, worship is important. In chapter 4, John gives a beautiful image of God's throne and its being surrounded by majestic-like creatures who worship God day and night (Rev. 4:8-11). Immediately, John was in the spirit (Rev. 4:2). What a beautiful image for the Christian who desires to worship God for all eternity (Ps. 86:12).

Two, God wins. Suffering and hardship are inevitable, but for the Christian, these are not forever. Being washed in the blood of the Lamb assures the obedient that God will have the final say for their good. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice (Jn. 10:11, 15), and He will make sure His sheep do not suffer forever (Rev. 22:3-5).

Revelation is not the easiest book to understand, but it cannot be ignored. It should be valued (Prov. 30:5). It guarantees a happy ending for those who believe in Him and obey His will (Rev. 2:10).

Forgiveness in the Old Testament

God forgives for His own name sake
(Isaiah 43:25)

God cast sins into the depth of the sea
(Micah 7:19)

Our sins are removed as far as the east is from the west
(Psalm 103:12)

God is forgiving
(Exod. 34:6-7)

God will pardon
(Jeremiah 50:20)

With God, there is forgiveness
(Psalm 130:3-4)

JESUS ON THE OLD TESTAMENT

It is inspired
(Matthew 4:4)

It was actual history
(Matthew 19:3-5)

It was indestructible
(Matthew 5:17-18)

It was inerrant
(Matthew 22:29)

It was about Him
(John 5:39-40)

He fulfilled it
(Luke 24:44)

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South Florida Avenue

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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