

# Are We Stealing from God?

We might find it hard to believe, but as we study the last book in the Old Testament, we find that God's people robbed Him in the past. In addressing this robbery, Malachi showed that God was just as consistent in His love for His people as they were in their waywardness toward Him. He declared, "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. <sup>7</sup>Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, Says the LORD of hosts. But you said, In what way shall we return?" (Malachi 3:6-7). God does not change (cf. Psalm 102:27; Hebrews 1:12; James 1:17). He still loves! God's people, likewise, did not change. They were still wayward! Malachi continued, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8-9). God's people were stealing from Him by withholding their offerings! Robbing mankind would have been bad enough, but they were robbing God! "Tithes," a mandatory contribution of a tenth (Ezekiel 45:11, 14), and "offerings," portions of sacrifices given to the priests (Exodus 29:27-28), acknowledged God's ownership and the offerer's stewardship. To remedy the situation, God challenged His people, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. <sup>11</sup>And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that (continued below)



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

## NEWS & EVENTS:

**Friday thru Sunday, August 8-10** will be the annual Teen Recharge at Weeki Wachee Christian Camp. Directed by Wayne Shearer and Holly Thornhill. The theme: "It's More Blessed to Give than to Receive" (Acts 20:35).

**Sunday, August 10** will be our next Lads to Leaders day. Our young people are in full gearing-up mode. We appreciate your help. We will have a schedule of events soon.

**Saturday, August 16** will be our next youth devotional and activity. Though originally to be hosted by the Bingles, will be hosted by the Kenyons (due to Heidi moving into her dorm that day—how exciting! We love you, Heidi!).

**Saturday, August 16** the Airport Road church of Christ (Valdosta, GA) will host GIGS (Girls in God's Service).

(continued from above) he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field, Says the LORD of hosts; <sup>12</sup>And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land, Says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:10-12). In essence, God says, "You do your part, and see if I don't fulfill My part." The expression, "There will not be room enough to receive it," shows an overflowing, boundless blessing that only the Lord can give. God's people sometimes rob Him today. The Lord is still as consistent as He always has been, but sometimes, people still withhold their financial offerings. We must give as prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2), yet we often love the world too much (1 John 2:15-17). God still challenges us to put faith in Him and see if He will not bless us! We must first give ourselves to God (2 Corinthians 8:1-5), and then trust God enough to sacrifice (2 Corinthians 9:9:6-8). Do we? Let's not rob God! ❤️ Brian

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

*A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.*  
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## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Robert McAnally  
(863) 682-3600

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.  
Worship.....10:30a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald.....Scotland  
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGES

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)  
[www.sfacc.net](http://www.sfacc.net)

## The Three Crosses of Calvary

*Mark N. Posey*

The theme of God's redemptive plan runs through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. At its heart is Calvary, the place where Jesus died so we could be forgiven. Isaiah foretold that Christ would be "numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). As we look to Calvary, we see three crosses.

**The Cross of REBELLION (Luke 23:39)** This man was dying because of crimes he had committed. Jesus had done nothing against him, yet this man used some of his last minutes in life to mock and scorn Jesus. As death approached, he was not moved to sorrow by thoughts of being punished forever for his wicked life. He was returning another's love with bitterness. Jesus was dying for him also. Even the solemnity of death could not restrain the blasphemies from his lips. This man died scoffing; he died in sin.

**The Cross of REPENTANCE (LUKE 23:40-43)** This man saw his horrible situation and considered his eternal fate (i.e., Remorse is moral anguish arising from repentance for past misdeeds; it is bitter regret.). He was moved to repentance, and Jesus rewarded him with forgiveness. Before he died physically, this man died to sin.

**The Cross of REDEMPTION** On this cross was the sinless Son of God. His mission on earth was to seek and save the lost, climaxing in the sacrifice of His life to pay the price for our sins. Jesus "committed no sin," but He "bore our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:22, 24). Many people taunted and challenged Him to show He was the Christ by coming down from the cross. Instead, He demonstrated His love for you and me by staying on the cross. The man on the middle cross died for sin.

God's Old Covenant with the Jews separated the Jews from all other nations. He removed it when Jesus died (Ephesians 2:11-16; Colossians 2:14; Romans 7:6-7; Galatians 3:24-25). In its place, the death of Jesus brought the New Covenant for all people of all nations (Hebrews 9:15-17; 12:24; Mark 16:15-16). Now, after His death, a believing sinner receives the benefit of the death of Jesus by repenting, confessing his faith and being baptized into the death of Christ (cf. Romans 6:3-4).

# Do Not Be A Fool!

Nat Evans

God said unto him, *“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?”* I would ask that you read Luke 12:15-21. Here we find the parable of the foolish rich man.

Here we find a rich man who had lived by a philosophy of life that many have unfortunately adopted today. It is as follows, *“I am not concerned about the future from the standpoint of the wellbeing of my soul. I am going to live for the satisfaction of my fleshly passions today. I am going to live for self. I will eat, drink and be merry. My belly is full. I have enjoyed an abundant harvest. I will continue to build to have room for my material blessings.”* One can readily see this man showed absolutely no interest in spiritual matters. As worldly people look at things, they would have deemed him a wise and a successful man. God called such a man a fool. His lack of concern about his soul came home to haunt him, as it will for all who follow in his steps.

This parable is a challenge to all of us to examine our purposes and goals in life. All opportunities to correct the wrongs in his life were about to come to a sudden and tragic end. God said to him, *“This night shall thy soul be required of thee”* (Luke 12:20). What a sobering reality! Do we seek to make a modern day application to our own lives? Yes, one of these days each of us will answer to God for our own individual choices and actions (2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). What if your soul was required of you this very day? Would you be prepared for death, the judgment and eternity?

My friends, a man's wealth accumulated in this life cannot buy him any favor in the next! No amount of wealth can take away the stain of one single sin. Only the blood of Christ can do that (John 1:29; Revelation 1:5; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7). This man in Luke 12 was concerned only with living. It is unfortunate that he had not pondered the question, *“Am I ready to die?”* In a single moment, all his earthly plans and hopes came to an end. His soul was about to make a solemn journey to the unseen world beyond, to meet as Barnes says, *“his long forgotten God.”* Wealth cannot keep us from the grave (Hebrews 9:27). It cannot buy the forgiveness of sin. One cannot buy his way into the heavenly mansions. Friend, material possessions can give no comfort in the hour of death, but they can serve to condemn the one who misused them (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 6:7-19).

The man who trusts in material things and who neglects his soul and who fails to obey God is a foolish man. Death can come with shocking suddenness. Most men die before they intend to die, and many die before they are prepared to die. As death finds us so shall the judgment find us (Luke 16:19-31). What if God called you to account today? My friends, we cannot afford to follow the rich man's footsteps. Are you prepared for death and the judgment? Have you obeyed the Gospel of Christ? Read about what is going to happen to those who do not obey the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Are you laying up treasures here on earth, or are you laying up treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)? Is there room for God in your life? If not, then God says you are a fool. Are you wise or foolish in God's eyes? Do you put your job ahead of the church? Are you more interested in things than in your soul? *“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:26). Do not be a fool!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Sharon Washington is in LRMC, Rm. W338 .Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson,Bill Burton, JoAnn Hoback & Margaret Coone

**Relatives:** Bob Kirkland & Wayne Hendrix.

**Shut In Members:** Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

**Others:** Vera Jackson, Jo Schnell, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner & Bonnie Hendricks

## Upcoming Events

**Aug.10th:** Lads to Leaders will meet. We appreciate all the help that our adults give.

**Aug. 16th:** - The Men's Breakfast will be held at N. Jackson church of Christ at 8:00 am.

**Aug. 29th-31st:** - Seminar at the Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ. The subject will be Evolution is Unscientific. The speaker will be Dr. Jeff Miller. See bulletin board.

## Visitors

Carl & Estrella Bolding, Hank & Patti Bolding, Inez Brooker, Phillis Parham, Christian Radford, Michael & Amanda Thrower, Frank & Judy Welch, Will & Autumn Vann & Mac.

## Sympathy

To Mrs. Teri Ash (a former member here) at the passing of her step-son, Dylan Ash, as the result of an accident the 4th of July weekend. The Funeral service was held July 17th in Apopka.

## Thank You Cards.

We have Thank You cards from Rosalind Coleman, Marilyn Eick, Ron & Judy Ford, & the Williams family. They will be posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

## Hither, Thither & Yon

Brian Kenyon will travel to Detroit to attend the MBL lectureships Aug 6th through Aug. 11th. Joe & Jacquelin Dopwell will travel to New York Aug 6th to visit his mother. Please pray for them, and others who may be traveling and for those serving in the military.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### August

Kenny French ..... **Table** ..... Charles Paulin  
Bob Pratt..... **Assist**..... C. J. Grimes

**August 10, 2014**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... Fred Strickland

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**.....David Anderson  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge  
**Closing Prayer** .....David Williams

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Greeters** ..... Phil & Dottie Fife  
**Att. Cards**..... Sebastian Rapley & Ian Enamorado  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Jimmy Sweeney

**Wed. August 13, 2014**

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** .....David Williams  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call **Chuck Wyatt** so he can get a replacement - 859-5231*

**Sunday, August 17, 2014**  
9:30 A.M..

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**..... Jimmy Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**.....David Anderson  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jim Turner  
**Closing Prayer** .....Fred Rapley

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Greeters** ..... Bob & Bea Pratt  
**Att. Cards**..... Sebastian Rapley & Antonio Martin  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Jimmy Sweeney

**Wed. August 20, 2014**

**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** .....Jeff Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jason Hendrix

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jul 13 .....	\$4,682.50
Jul 20 .....	\$4,541.06
Jul 27 .....	\$4,167.87
Aug 03 .....	\$6,485.10
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$4,526.79</b>
<b>2014 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,256.38</b>

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

**"Helpers Needed"**

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

