



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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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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What The Old Testament Provides for Christians

Hiram Kemp

The Bible is comprised of 66 books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Since we are under the new covenant of Jesus Christ, it makes sense that we would spend the majority of our time in the New Testament (2 Cor. 3:6; Heb. 9:15-17). The Old Law is described as old and vanishing away as the New Testament was being completed (Heb. 8:8-13; cf. Jer. 31:31-34). We are not under the law [i.e., the law of Moses], but instead, we are under grace (Rom. 6:14, 7:1-6). The New Testament is more glorious than the Old Testament (2 Cor. 3:7-18). With all of that said, we still do rob ourselves of a great blessing if we do not regularly study and read from the Old Testament Scriptures. Here are several things that the Old Testament continues to provide for Christians today.

Old Testament Provides: Hope

Romans 15:4

Paul said that the Old Testament was written for our learning so that we, as Christians, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope (Rom. 15:4). Many Bible students incorrectly assume that after reading the Old Testament, one is left feeling hopeless, but this is the opposite of what the Holy Spirit communicates through Paul. The Old Testament is a letter filled with hope because it points beyond itself. The Old Testament Scriptures anticipate a time when God would bring about a new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34). The Old Testament is hopeful that God's kingdom would come into the world and all people would flow into it (Isa. 2:1-4). The Old Law speaks of the continuous existence of the kingdom that would come (Dan. 2:44).

Moreover, reading the Old Testament provides hope because it is there that we encounter the God who gives hope (Psa. 130:5). How many times does one read in the Old Testament of situations that seem hopeless only to see God breathe new life into those situations? Abraham thought having a child in his old age was a long shot, but he hoped, and God blessed him (Gen. 21:5; Rom. 4:18). Elijah thought he was the only one of God's faithful prophets left, but he received a hope-filled message that God had scores of other faithful servants who had not bowed the knee to idolatrous worship (cf. 1 Kings 19). A careful reading of the Old Testament provides hope for God's people today as we realize that we serve the same God Israel served (Mal. 3:6). The same God who would not abandon them will not abandon us (Josh. 1:5; Heb. 13:5-6). Those who read the Old Testament today will receive hope as we learn of the continual faithfulness of God (Lam. 3:22-24).

Old Testament Provides: Examples

1 Corinthians 10:6, 10:11; Hebrews 11

The Old Testament is full of examples for us to learn. This is perhaps the most common way the Old Testament is used today, and for good reason. The Israelites wandering in the wilderness, their fickle faith, and frequent temper tantrums were written and preserved for us (1 Cor. 10:1-11). Paul explicitly stated that they were written for our admonition, meaning we should learn from their lives. The lesson is just as they fell, though they were God's people, so can we if we are not careful (1 Cor. 10:12). Just as 603,548 of those who were twenty years old and older died in the wilderness, we could miss our land of rest as well if we do not persevere in faith (Heb. 3:12-4:11).

We must not only look to the Old Testament for the negative examples it provides,

but make a note of the positive examples of faith contained therein. The writer of the book of Hebrews demonstrates this balanced approach in his use of the Old Testament. In the first several chapters, he mentions the faithless Israelites in the wilderness. However, lest we think it was impossible to be faithful under the old covenant, he spends all of chapter 11 highlighting the faithful examples we find in the Old Testament. He mentions Abraham, Moses, Enoch, Sarah, Rahab, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, David, Abel, and others (Hebrews 11:1-40). As you read through the list, it becomes apparent that those listed were not flawless but faithful. When we read the Old Testament, we learn that God does not excuse sin or unrighteousness, but He does applaud and rewards faith even when it is exercised by less than perfect people. We should take great courage that we can be counted faithful by God even though we make mistakes (1 John 1:7-10). The Old Testament helps us see the examples of those we should emulate and the examples of those we should avoid (3 John 11).

Old Testament Provides: Proof for Inspiration 2 Timothy 3:16-17

When Paul told Timothy that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God or is God-breathed,” this does not exclude the New Testament passages, but we should keep in mind that the New Testament was still being penned when he wrote those words (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

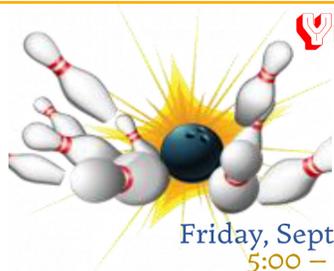
The Old Testament Scriptures were given by God and provides an abundance of riches as we consider what it means for the Bible to be inspired of God. Consider predictive prophecy and the fact that the only way Isaiah, Micah, and others could make predictions centuries before the events transpired is because God had given them the information (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Old Testament foretells a ruler named Cyrus who would emancipate God’s people decades before his birth (Isa. 44:28; cf. Ezra 1:1-4). The Old Testament gives us a thorough description of the rise and fall of kingdoms (Dan. 2:1-45). The Old Testament should be studied and consulted for what it teaches us about Scripture’s divine origin and how it strengthens the case for the Bible being a book from God Himself.

Old Testament Provides: Messianic Expectations John 5:39-40

Jesus said if the Old Testament is correctly read, it will point its readers to Him (John 5:39-40). He fulfilled everything written in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah (Luke 24:44). The New Testament gospels tell us what kind of Savior Jesus was, but the Old Testament told us ahead of time what kind of Messiah to expect. His virgin birth (Isa. 7:14), the place where He would be born (Mic. 5:2), the kind of preaching He would do (Psa. 78:2), His suffering (Isaiah 53), how He would die (Psalm 22), His reign as a High Priest (Psalm 110:1, 110:4),

(continued on page 4)

Bible Trivia on Kahoot! Every Thursday at 7:00 pm.



YOUTH GROUP BOWLING NIGHT

Friday, September 3, 2021
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Sign-up
sheet
is on the
board

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Tips For Facing Trials

For many young disciples of Christ, going back to school may feel like being put on trial. Facing temptations, bullies, and ungodly conversations can be overwhelming. Often, Jesus or His disciples were put on trial for their faith. Here are a few tips that may help you when facing trials of your own.

1. Make up your mind beforehand that you will obey the will of God (Matthew 26:39, Acts 5:29)
2. You do not have to respond to every accusation or question (Matthew 27:12-14, Mark 14:60,61)
3. If accused of something, make sure it is for doing something good. (Acts 4:9,10; Acts 10:38)
4. Realize that people are swayed by the devil to do evil (Luke 23:34, Acts 7:60)
5. Be joyful and glorify God to be counted worthy of trials and suffering (Acts 5:41; James 1:2)

Senior Saints by John McShane

I could not get my mind to work this week and come up with an article for the bulletin. I found an article that I had saved from who knows where that I think can benefit us today. It reads: “When I was asked why we didn’t have a drug problem when you and I were growing up, I replied that I had a drug problem when I was young. I was drug to church on Sunday mornings. I was drug to church for funerals and weddings. I was drug to family reunions. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or preacher, or didn’t put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me. I was drugged to the kitchen sink to wash my mouth out with soap if I uttered profanity. I was drugged to the neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline of chop firewood. These drugs are still in my veins, and they affect my behavior today. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin. If children today had this drug problem, the world would be a better place.” Can you think of any Bible phrase that backs up this article? There are many, but I will let you decide which ones you prefer.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim & Carol Edmonson - health
 Nasheka Medley - pregnancy
 Bernetta Green - health
 Fred Strickland - health
 Melody Baxter - health
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Flo Duffy - eye problems
 Vanessa Palmer - health

John & Linda McShane
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Darlene Thompson - family
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Kathy Nester - health
 Joyce Williams
 Annette Phillip - health
 George Davis - injury from a fall
 Tanner Estridge - health

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Faith West Joyce Burbage
 Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down again.

From the Elders

As covid cases are on the rise in some parts of Florida, we want to remind our members to **stay home if you feel any symptoms of illness**. If you attend in person, please wear a mask if you are considered high risk.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22, 2020. Thanks for your cooperation.

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be August 29, 2021.

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.

Senior Saints Meeting

Due to the recent increase of Covid cases, the August meeting is postponed.

The Kemps' "New Adventures" Going Away Party

August 14th from 11:00am-1:00pm

Please RSVP via the link in the email or on the list on the bulletin board if you and your family plan to attend. The church is providing all food, and an RSVP will help ensure enough food for everyone.



This week's pantry item request:
packs of snack crackers

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo John McShane
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Sunday, August 15, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "The Good Confession"
 1 Timothy 6:12-16

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "The 7 Types of Friends We All Need"
 Proverbs 18:24

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) David Deal
 Greeter Bingle
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Potvin
 Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer Lou Van Allen

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Stewart
 P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Nigel St. Bernard
 Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer George Davis

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Johnny Singh
 Devo Hiram Kemp
 Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Upcoming Events

August

14 - Kemps' party
 17 - FSOP ladies' class
 21 - Teachers' workshop
 22 - Teachers' meeting
 24 - ladies' night out
 28 - Youth group devo

October

2 - Door Knocking
 2 - Ladies' Day
 Trunk or Treat
 (Date TBD)

November

14-17 Fall gospel mtg
 19 - Youth group

September

3 - Bowling night
 12 - Joey Treat
 18 - Youth Seminar

December

thankful meal
 Christmas caroling &
 parties
 (Dates TBD)

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 25 \$6,676.25
 Aug 1 \$8,272.00
 Aug 8 \$6,871.25
 Contribution Average \$7,273.17

Intentionally pray when you wake up each day
Intentionally smile even when things aren't going your way

Be intentionally kind when others are rude
Your radiant light may change someone's mood

Be intentionally grateful even when your check is small,
knowing that God extends his grace on us all

Intentionally sing loudly and with joy
Intentionally be considerate and not easily annoyed

Intentionally love with all your heart,
knowing God's love we can never depart

We must live intentionally and never forget
Jesus is our Savior and He paid our debt

(continued from page 2)

and His triumphant resurrection (Psalm 16:10) are all spoken of in the Old Testament.

Those unfamiliar with the Old Testament prophecies and predictions about Jesus will be unimpressed with His credentials when they read about Him in the New Testament. The Old Testament speaks of the highpoints of our favorite Bible characters, but it also speaks of the failings of every one of them. Behind the shortcomings of men like Abraham, David, and Moses is this great expectation that someone better is coming (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). The Old Testament provides a clear picture of Jesus and what He would do, we should read the Old Testament looking for our Master.

We are New Testament Christians and that is a great thing. We need to be sure to study the New Testament because it is what we will be judged by (John 12:48). However, do not skip over the Old Testament because there is much to learn there, too. The Old Testament gives us hope, provides examples to shun and examples to mimic, validates the Bible's inspiration, and tells us what kind of Messiah Jesus would be.

**Saturday workshop for
Bible class teachers**

August 21, 2021
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Please RSVP to sfa.church@gmail.com
or call 863-682-4702

**South Florida Ave church of Christ
Youth Seminar**



Saturday, September 18, 2021

9:00 am - 12:00 pm **RSVP**

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

**"NOW FAITH IS THE
SUBSTANCE OF THINGS
HOPED FOR, THE
EVIDENCE OF THINGS
NOT SEEN,"**

Hebrews 11:1