



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 32 August 11, 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](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://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.

## Christians Response to Government

### *Praying for People in Power*

Hiram Kemp

The Bible fully equips Christians for every good work. The Bible provides us with the wisdom and instruction to live for God in an ungodly world. When we read Scripture, we should remember that it teaches us how to be saved and spend eternity with God. However, the scriptures also help us to navigate daily life. Scripture provides guidance and direction for every relationship that we have on Earth. This is true when it comes to relationships in our homes (Eph. 5:22-32), our relationships with employers (cf. Col. 3:22-4:1), how we treat our enemies (Matt. 5:43-48), and also how we are to interact with our government (Romans 13:1-7).

While it is true that the Bible will not spell out who we should vote for or whether we should vote at all, the Bible does give us principles that guide in those areas. When it comes to how we as Christians should respond to our government, God is more concerned with making sure we do not ruin our influence and misrepresent Him than He is with anything else. Moreover, as we read the New Testament, we find Christians in an environment where the government was often hostile to them, and yet, they were still able to do the will of God and be faithful (Rev. 2:10; 12:10-11). No matter what is going on in our world, whether we approve of the current government or not, we must be sure to allow God's Word to guide our lives in this regard (Psa. 119:105). What the Bible says to Christians about government is true regardless of what type of government we live under. Therefore, a careful study of this topic is necessary for every generation. In the next several bulletin articles, I want to address how the Bible says we should interact with government as Christians. Let us allow Jesus, the King of Kings, to show us how we should deal with rulers in the world today.

### *Pray for Leaders*

Paul told Timothy that he wrote First Timothy so he (and the Christians in Ephesus) would know how to behave in the church of God (1 Tim. 3:14-15). He wrote about orderly and authorized worship (1 Tim. 2:8-15), appointing leaders (1 Tim. 3:1-13), dealing with false doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1-16), benevolence in the church (1 Tim. 5:5-16), and relationships among brethren (1 Tim. 5:1-4; 6:1, 17-19).

However, in this book on church behavior, we should be careful not to overlook that Paul mentions we are to pray for all men (1 Tim. 2:1). He further elaborates that we should pray for kings and for all who are in authority (1 Tim. 2:2). The purpose for the prayers on behalf of leaders is so Christians can lead a quiet and peaceful life. We should be praying that the leaders we live under will not make it unnecessarily difficult for us to live the kind of lives God wants us to live (cf. 2 Thess. 3:1-2). If we believe that God rules in the kingdoms of men, and He does, we should be praying that those who rule will do things that are right in His sight and for the benefit of His people (Dan. 4:25). Notice that Paul says that we should pray for rulers so we can live godly lives. If we pray for rulers and our prayers are answered so we may live in times of relative peace but we fail to live as we should, God will hold us accountable (1 Pet. 1:15-16). Furthermore, we are to pray for rulers because this is good and acceptable in God's eyes because He wants all people everywhere to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4). I believe the desire for all men to be saved has a two-fold application in this context. First, if we are able to live quiet and peaceful lives, the gospel will go further as we use the times of peace wisely (Mk. 16:15-16).

Second, God wants all men to be saved including government officials. It is wise to pray that they not only will do the right thing but will also come into contact with the gospel and believe it. I need to obey Paul's instructions more and pray for those in power. How would things change if we prayed about them more than we complained about them? We should pray for those in Washington and Tallahassee. Paul said we are to pray for "all in authority" which means we should also pray for leaders of other nations.

### Putting Prayer Into Practice

When the early church was persecuted by their leaders, they responded with prayer (Acts 4:23-30). They were not shaken up by the way their government treated them. Instead, they prayed until the place where they were assembled shook (Acts 4:31). When Paul and Silas were beaten in Philippi by governing authorities, they, too, responded with prayer (Acts 16:25). When Peter was imprisoned by local authorities, the church was gathered to pray (Acts 12:12). When we read through the Book of Acts, it seems that the church's posture toward their political leaders, and even political issues in their day, was to "take it to the Lord in prayer."

In our public assemblies, we typically pray for our government and those in various offices. I want to encourage us to continue to do this (Col. 4:2-3). Furthermore, as we have times of peace because of God and the kindness of government rulers that allow us to assemble peacefully, let us remember to offer prayers of thanksgiving (Eph. 5:20). In our personal prayer lives, may we be encouraged to pray for those in power. They need our prayers, and there is a sense in which we need them, too. We need them to do the right things so it will not become unnecessarily difficult for us to follow our God (cf. Rom. 15:30-32).

There is an email from Jesus Paguaga, the missionary in Honduras that we support, on the bulletin board. He included photos with an update of the work being done there. Please take time to read it and pray for Jesus



### Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

The Nike brand has become one of the biggest in all the world. Just a quick look at a shoe, T-shirt, or any other of their products, and the simple swoosh is easily recognized.

One person asked Jesus, what is the greatest of all the commandments? Jesus made it very simple.  
Mark 12:28-31

1. Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
2. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, will all your mind, and with all your strength.
3. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The brand Nike used to have a simple slogan --  
Just Do it!

**Jesus made it very simple... Just do it!**

Though the world may find it easy to criticize people in power, we should remember that the Bible forbids us to do this. Paul was telling Titus to teach the people at Crete to submit to governing leaders. He then says that they should "speak evil of no one" (Titus 3:1-2). Maybe it is here that we can stand out from our friends and neighbors and shine our light. If we talk about our leaders to God instead of talking about our leaders to men, people may want to know what makes us different (1 Pet. 3:15). It is always right to speak out against sin and unrighteousness, but it is also our obligation to obey God; and God says do not speak evil of rulers (cf. Acts 24:25). The Bible does not forbid us from talking about our leaders. It just says we should do so on our knees. It is impressive to see that though the apostles lived under harsh and wicked leaders who punished and killed some of them, we do not read of them speaking evil of any of them (Acts 12:1-5). Let our words for political leaders be words of prayer. Yes, there are times to pray that God deal with wickedness (even among leaders) and to pray that God intervene on behalf of the righteous (cf. Rev. 6:9-10). There is more to be said about our responsibilities to government. I will mention those things in subsequent articles, but let us begin here. Pray for those in authority because God said so (Jn. 14:15)!

### Help Needed

The Daughertys are moving from North Lakeland and need your help!

If you are available on Friday, August 21, please see Vince or Tiffany for details.



### Senior Saints

by John McShane

As we look around our world today, we sometimes wonder just what is going on. It seems as if there is turmoil and confusion throughout our world today. Vince gave an excellent lesson Sunday on how we can react to what we face in our daily lives. We can remain strong in our faith and trust in God and His holy word to help us get safely past whatever comes our way. An article I just read also reminded me that we will face trials as we go through our life here on earth, but it also brought another factor in our favor to light. In the book of Revelation in Chapter 2:10-11 we read,

***"Do not fear any of these things you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."***

Words to live by in our day to day life.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Frank Hamby  
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt  
 Margaret Norman  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Cierra Edwards  
 Bruce Longfellow  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask  
 Linda McShane  
 Bernetta Green  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Ellen Shearer  
 Jim Turner  
 Annette Phillip

Ron & Judy Ford  
 Brian Smith  
 Ray Nashick  
 Bob Pratt  
 Geny Johnson  
 Margaret Coone  
 George Davis

## Extended family:

**George French** (Kenny & Reba's son)  
**Trevor & Sandy Hutchins** (Becky Sheumaker's sister & brother-in-law)  
**Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister)  
**Maria Wardell** (Darlene Thompson's granddaughter)  
**Alicia Zamot** (Jagie Kenyon's aunt)  
**Chip Bolding** (bettie bolding's son)  
**Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son)  
**Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland** (Ruby Lewis' nephew)  
**Gene Johnson** (Mark Johnson's father)  
**Gina** (Kathy Nester's daughter)  
**Beverly Kinsey** (Debbie Bush's sister-in-law)  
**Tim Albright** (Glenda Beebe's cousin)



## Friends:

**Roselyn Roberts** (friend of Darlene Thompson)  
**Elizabeth (Tubbs) Dean** (former member)  
**Cooper Terry** (friend of Jeff Bingle)  
**Carter Hancock** (friend of Sophia Smith & Jessica Anderson)  
**Tina Thomas & Diana Ashley** (friends of Sharon Washington)  
**Carl Chambers**  
**Rosie Patterson** (Medulla member)



## RESPONSES

**Janis Waldon** requested prayers for spiritual strength. Also, she requests prayers for the CT scan that is rescheduled to August 11.

## UPDATES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

**Darlene Thompson** is scheduled for cataract surgery on Wednesday, August 12.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

To **Wesley Brunson** on the passing of his mother, Ruth Brunson, on August 9, 2020.

FSOP is looking for help providing paper goods for the students that live in the house next door. If you would like to help with this please see Kathy, Jagie, or Brian for details.

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

## 5th Sunday Collection

August 30th is the 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund. If you would like to give additional funds, there are designated envelopes in the foyer. Please place in the collection plate. You can also mail or bring your contribution 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 12, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Devo ..... Andre Medley  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

### Sunday, August 16, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Brian Kenyon  
*"Don't Miss the Good News"*  
 Luke 24:13-27

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Brian Kenyon  
*"What About the First Part of Esther 4:14?"*

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) ..... Phil Fife  
 Song before class/Prayer ..... Ian E./Alex P.  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Lord's Table ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Closing Prayer..... Charles Paulin

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Alex Parramore  
 Lord's Table ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Closing Prayer ..... Vince Daugherty

### Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Song Leader ..... Ian Enamorado  
 Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Devo ..... Josh Potvin  
 Closing Prayer ..... Allen Grimes

### 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 26	\$4,948.00
Aug 2	\$9,322.00
Aug 9	\$8,414.00
<b>Contribution Average</b>	<b>\$7,143.60</b>

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Matthew 13:45-46

Upon discovering the apparent & undeniable worth of the kingdom, the truly wise person will be willing to sacrifice everything in order to obtain it.

As a Christian, do I live like I understand the worth of the Kingdom?

Am I willing to lay aside worldly pleasures in order to obtain it?

Am I willing to sacrifice entertainment, relationships, social media, fortune, power, earthly rights, pride, or status in order to be one with my Lord?

Can others look at me and confidently say that I live like I value the Lord's Kingdom?

Or do I treat the Kingdom like a hobby or a trivial pursuit?

Do I treat the Kingdom with the worth that it deserves?

If Jesus saw fit to give His life for the Kingdom, what does it say about His follower if she does not treasure it as He does?

Sisters, let us be careful how we view the Kingdom and how we portray it's worth to others!

### FAITHFUL STUDENTS OF THE BIBLE

Jeremiah ate the Word  
*(Jeremiah 15:16)*

Job exalted the Word above food  
*(Job 23:12)*

Ezra studied and practiced it  
*(Ezra 7:10)*

John consumed God's message  
*(Revelation 10:10)*

Ezra read the Word carefully  
*(Nehemiah 8:8)*

Joshua was to meditate on it  
*(Joshua 1:8)*

The Bereans studied daily  
*(Acts 17:11)*

Jesus said we need it to live  
*(Matthew 4:4)*

### Prayers to Pray Throughout the Day

*Thank you, Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

*Help me, Lord (Psalm 12:1; Hebrews 4:16)*

*Forgive me, Lord (1 John 1:9)*

*I need you, Lord (John 15:5)*

*Give me strength, Lord (Ephesians 6:10)*

*Keep me from sin, Lord (Psalm 19:13-14)*

*I surrender, Lord (Matthew 26:39)*

*Be with me, Lord (2 Timothy 4:17)*

*I love you, Lord (Psalm 18:1)*

[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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

Find us on social media



Find us on Facebook

THIS GOD - HIS WAY IS PERFECT; THE WORD OF THE LORD PROVES TRUE; HE IS A SHIELD FOR ALL THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.

*Psalms 18:30*

**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested