

"BACK to REALITY!"

Some of our young people have already started school, while others will start next week. This means summer break is over. Those attending Polk County high schools will have to re-train themselves to get up while it's still dark outside. Teachers are in the same situation—back to reality! Though there may be some unwanted adjustments involved with getting "back to reality," the Christian's true reality is still very good! The writer of Hebrews penned, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). Our reality is a loving God who will never forsake His people! No matter what struggles we face, God will stand by our side. This blessed reality, though, is conditioned on two things. First, we must not live for "stuff." Covetousness is setting the mind upon material things to the exclusion of God. People who live covetously "fall into temptation and a snare" and "pierce themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Second, we must be content with the material things we have. Paul said, "for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound" (Philippians 4:11-12). Rather than material things, "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). School can be great, especially when we keep it in perspective. If we live focused on God, He will always be there for us, our Awesome Reality! ❤️ Brian



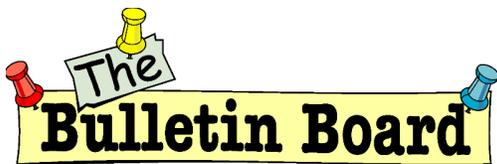
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



Sunday, August 17 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. However, if enough girls want to go to GIGS, the devotional will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for details or call Brian Friday night.

Saturday, August 16 the Airport Road church of Christ (Valdosta, GA) will host GIGS (Girls in God's Service). Please let Brian or Jagie know if you, girls, would like to attend.

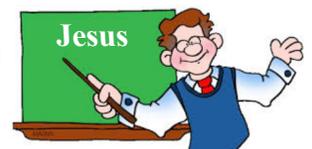
ONE Study
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians



Our youth group has begun a focused study of ONE as revealed in these epistles of Paul!

TEACHERS' MEETING

September will begin our new classes. There will be a meeting right after morning worship Aug. 17. Teaching is a great opportunity to serve the Lord!



"Pew Packers" will begin Sunday at 5:45 pm. Join us to learn God's word!

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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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.

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

A Way That Can't Be Wrong

Therman Hodge

The way to heaven is straight and narrow (Matt. 7:13-14), but wrong ways may seem right to those who do not know or believe the truth (Prov. 14:12; 21:2; 28:26). However, there is a way revealed in the Bible that is right and cannot be wrong. It is also the way of peace and unity (John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 14:9).

It cannot be wrong to accept the Bible as an infallible and all-sufficient guide in all matters of religion (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3). Faith in Christ as the Son of God cannot be wrong (Matt. 16:13-18; Acts 2:36-41). In addition, it cannot be wrong for sinners to repent of all sins (2 Peter 3:9; 2 Cor. 7:10; Acts 3:19; 17:30). It cannot be wrong to be baptized upon a confession of faith in Christ to become simply a member of the Lord's church (Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-39; 2:37-41, 47; 22:16; Mark 16:15-16). It cannot be wrong to baptize penitent believers instead of unbelieving infants (Acts 2:36-41). It cannot be wrong for proper subjects to be immersed – buried and raised – in baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:38-39).

It cannot be wrong to wear the name of Christ, the name "Christian" rather than some sectarian name (1 Peter 4:14-16; Acts 11:26; 26:28; James 2:7). It cannot be wrong to obey Christ in all things (Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 5:8-9; 1 John 2:3-4; Luke 6:46). Faithful attendance at all services of the church cannot be wrong (Hebrews 10:25; 1 Cor. 14:23; James 4:17). It cannot be wrong for all the members of the church to liberally and cheerfully give according to their purpose of heart and prosperity (2 Cor. 9:5-8; 1 Cor. 16:1-3). It cannot be wrong to sing the praise of God in song in our worship without instruments of music (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12). It cannot be wrong to eat the Lord's Supper upon the first day of every week as the early Christians did (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2). Earnest, fervent prayer cannot be wrong in Christian worship (Heb. 13:15; Acts 2:42).

It cannot be wrong to be pure in heart and clean in life (Matt. 5:8; Titus 2:11-14; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:19-22). It cannot be wrong to try to convert the world to Christ (1 Cor. 9:22; Prov. 11:30; 2 Cor. 5:11; Acts 26:28; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).

Each of the foregoing items has to do with pure, primitive Christianity. Let us call the world back to these principles and back to the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jer. 6:16; Jude 3).

God Is!

Gary C. Hampton

It is not unusual to be challenged today by someone who has either been brought up to disbelieve or has had bad experiences in life. He or she may ask the Christian to “prove to me there is a God!” Of course, “No one has seen God at any time” (John 1:18). Neither has anyone tasted, touched or smelled Him. Some in the Old Testament heard Him, but none of us has. We cannot isolate God in a test tube or examine Him under a microscope. We must use some other means to show that God is.

The Creation Proves There Is a God. The greatest evidence of God’s existence is found in His creation. “*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork*” (Psalm 19:1). Creation exhibits a design that must be the work of a designer. Most have no trouble understanding that any house, or other structure, had a designer or architect, who drew up a plan for its construction. In the same way, the world around us displays a design that denies an origin of mere chance. Bert Thompson and Wayne Jackson, in their book *A Study Course in Christian Evidences*, on page 25, wrote,

Did you realize, for example, that the human body is composed of multiplied trillions of cells? In the nucleus [sic] of each cell, hundreds of thousands of genes are present. Each gene consists of a complex chemical called deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). DNA has a complicated code for the mapping out of the entire development of the individual. If the coded instructions of a single human cell were put into English, “they would fill a 1,000 volume encyclopedia” (R. Platt, *Reader’s Digest*, October, 1962, p. 148).

One writer observed, “*For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God*” (Hebrews 3:4). The form and function of all the things God created teaches us there is a God (Job 12:7-10).

There Is a Prime Cause Behind the Cosmos. The cosmological argument seems to go hand in hand with the argument from design. This argument says the cosmos, including the world in which we live, obviously exists. It goes further to say that nothing comes from nothing. Therefore, there is a prime cause behind the cosmos, or God. The second law of thermodynamics, also known as entropy, says things go from order to disorder, or what we might describe as a winding down process. Such an obvious process lets us know the universe is not eternal. Something had to be behind its existence.

Man’s Moral Nature Proves There Is a Moral Governor. Man’s moral nature tells us there must be a Moral Governor. People the world over condemned Adolph Hitler’s attempt to destroy the Jews. Why? Because man’s innate “sense of right” told him genocide was wrong. The animals do not display such a sense. Anyone who has ever seen a documentary on any of a number of animals likely has been impressed with their total lack of conscience. They can kill and eat another innocent creature without any pangs of conscience. For that reason, we do not bring an ox that gores a man up on charges of murder. Instead, we place the ox inside a fence and post warnings of the danger. In contrast, a man who kills is considered a criminal and will be tried for murder because he ought to know better. Thompson and Jackson ask, “If one does not acknowledge an eternal Mind with which intrinsic goodness is coexistent, how is ‘morality’ to be explained?” (p. 28).

Even in our age of skepticism and doubt, man seems to seek something to worship. Thus, we have what has been termed the new age movement. Individuals pursuing this concept believe in “karma” and “soul mates.” Ancient Indians worshiped the “Great Spirit.” The men of Athens erected altars to all types of gods, including one inscribed, “*To the Unknown God*” (Acts 17:22-23). Augustine believed this universal desire of man to worship, which he called “intuition,” was clear evidence there is a God. Batsell Barrett Baxter, in his book *I Believe Because...*, explained this argument for God’s existence by describing a first time visitor to Washington, D. C. seeing the 550’ Washington Monument. He said when they stood before the monument, they would instinctively look up all the way to its top. The same type of instinct causes man to look up to heaven for the Almighty God.

The Concept of God in Man’s Mind Implies He Is. Baxter also explained Anselm’s ontological argument, by first telling his readers that ontology is the branch of philosophy devoted to the nature or existence of God. “Anselm began with a definition, ‘God is that than which nothing greater can be conceived!’ Then he argued that man is able to conceive in his mind of the idea that than which there is no greater.” He then went on to say he could think of something even greater than “that than which nothing greater can be conceived.” What was it? The existence of that being greater than anything which man could conceive. Baxter went on to point to Psalm 14:1, which says, “*The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’*” Then, Baxter wrote, “In order for the fool to say ‘God,’ he had to have a concept of God in his mind. To start out to deny God is a kind of implication that God exists.”

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, Sharon Washington & Margaret Coone

Relatives: Eddie Richardson (Nephew of Betty Bolding & son of Peggy Richardson) Amanda Del Gado, 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. 16th: The Men's Breakfast will be held at N. Jackson Ave. in Bartow at 8:00 am.

Aug. 17th: - Lads to Leaders will meet. We appreciate all the help that our adults give to our youth.

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

Estrella Bolding, Jason Donnemiller, Jennifer Kelly, Darnell Kirkland, Lilly Palarmo, Linda Pennington, Peggy Richardson, Alicia Smith & Latraile, Kathryn Thompson, Dorothy Webb.

Congratulations

To Chuck and Evelyn Wyatt who will celebrate their 67th Wedding Anniversary August 23rd. We wish them good health and much happiness.

Thank You Card

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, visits and food you have blessed Sam and I with for the last 19 months. You have made those months much easier. With Love,
bettye bolding

Hither, Thither & Yon

Bob McAnally will be away for a couple weeks. Please keep him, and any others who may be traveling in your prayers.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

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

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

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

August 24, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Casey Paulin
Prayer Phil Fife

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kyle Williams
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle
Greeters Fred & Kathy Strickland
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 27, 2014

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jul 20	\$4,541.06
Jul 27	\$4,167.87
Aug 03	\$6,485.10
Aug 10	\$4,630.20
Contribution Average	\$4,530.02
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message
"Our Country"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

