

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 70 No. 30 08-15-17

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

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.

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

Are We "Binding" and "Loosing" as God Has? (PART 1)

By Brian R. Kenyon

The question in the title of this article is very important. One thing that separates the church of Christ from the denominational world — and the entire religious world — is that the faithful church of Christ only binds and looses what God has bound and loosed. The moment we cease binding what God has bound and/or loosing what God has loosed, we cease being the faithful church of Christ.

God Has Already "Bound" and "Loosed"

Shortly after Peter's monumental confession that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:16), Jesus told him, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Mt. 16:19). Later, that same instruction to "bind and loose" was given to the rest of the apostles (Mt. 18:18). Understanding the tense of the verbs is necessary to any study of "binding and loosing." It is not the case that Jesus was saying that whatever Peter and the apostles "bound" or "loosed" on earth would be later ratified in heaven, as if they were the ones deciding what should be "bound" and "loosed." Rather, the verbs behind the translation, "will be bound in heaven ... will be loosed in heaven," are what is called future perfect in the original language.

Upon first reading one might think that "will be bound" is from one verb, and "will be loosed" is from another verb. However, in an interesting pairing of verb tenses. Each part consists of two verbs with different tenses. The verb translated "will be" in both parts is the future middle form of "to be." The "bound" and "loosed" are from perfect passive participles, translated "bound" and "loosed," respectively. The perfect tense "describes an action that was brought to completion and whose effects are felt in the present" (Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* 223). Because there is no exact equivalent of the Greek perfect tense in English, most English translations do not convey the precise meaning. To translate with the full force of the verbs, the verse actually reads, "Whatsoever you may bind on earth will have already been bound in heaven, and whatsoever you may loose on earth will have already been loosed in heaven."

By using this future perfect tense construction, the Lord was giving Peter and the other apostles the authority only to teach and preach the God-given terms by which one was admitted to or excluded from the kingdom. The apostles had no right to communicate anything different from that which God had already determined. For this reason, they were given the supernatural power of the Holy

Spirit to guide them into “all truth” (Jn. 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13). Their being inspired to communicate all truth, of course, did not guarantee their sinlessness (cf. Gal. 2:11-14), but it did guarantee that the message they preached was 100% accurate, the word of God (1 Cor. 2:6-15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). The “will have already been bound in heaven, and ... will have already been loosed in heaven” principle was so serious that Paul later wrote, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8-9)! If not even an apostle or an angel from heaven could teach something different from what God had already decreed in heaven, then no preacher, elder, Bible class teacher, or human being living today has a right to bind what God has loosed or to loose what God has bound!

“Liberalism” Is Loosing What God Has Bound

The word “liberal” in religious academia is usually reserved to refer to those “Bible scholars” who deny the supernatural inspiration of the Scriptures. Here, however, liberalism refers to “loosing what God has bound.” Thus, liberals are those who loosen the standards that God has set through His inspired word.

Consider two New Testament passages that exemplify loosing what God has bound. First, Jesus said, “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:19). The word translated “breaks” is from a Greek word that means to “loose.” Who are we to say what are the “least” commandments? Are not we to live by “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Mt. 4:4)? We cannot please God by “loosing” what we consider are His “least commandments,” when God “bound” them!

Second, Jesus said, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone” (Mt. 23:23). The verb translated “have neglected [omitted, KJV]” is from a Greek word that has the basic meaning of to “let go, or release.” Sometimes the word is translated “forgive” (Mt. 6:12, 14-15), because forgiveness is the “release” of sins. The verb is even translated “divorce [put away, KJV]” (1 Cor. 7:11-13), as in the “letting go” of a spouse. However, in the verse quoted above, it refers to releasing, or letting go, part of God’s law. The “weightier matters” refer to what should have been obvious — justice, mercy, and faith! What these Pharisees were doing was making sure they had minutely taxed the people, yet letting go the very attributes that should have regulated their tithing. This did not mean that their tithing was not important, for Jesus said, “These you ought to have done”! However, they also should have been practicing justice, mercy, and faith. The point is that we cannot pick and choose which of God’s commandments we will keep and which we will loose. If we love Him, we will keep them all (Jn. 14:15)!

“Anti-ism” Is Binding What God Has Loosed

In contrast to liberalism, anti-ism, or anti-Biblical expediency, may be defined as “binding what God has loosed.” People of this persuasion make the standards of God stricter by binding doctrines that God has not bound. This writer has found from his experience in talking with these brethren that the doctrines bound most by them are in the area of expediency — matters of judgment that are helpful in carrying out God-given responsibilities. For the most part, these brethren take matters of judgment and bind their opinion as if it were what God had already bound in heaven!

A New Testament example of binding where God has loosed is found in First Timothy 4:1-4:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving.

These two instances of binding where God had loosed was likely a reference to some form of incipient Gnosticism, which held that all flesh was evil and only spirit was good. Thus, the more one denied oneself of fleshly appetites, the more spiritual he or she became (cf. Col. 2:20-23). However, God did not bind celibacy on Christians (except the guilty of fornication spouse in a Scriptural divorce, Mt. 19:9). To the contrary, God said *(continued on page 4)*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Margaret Coone, Sharon Washington and Josephine Bowman.

Relatives: Brian Patterson, Benny Martin, Cameron Soles, Dorothy Trice, Heather Alford, (Darlene Thompson's grandson's wife) and Kristen Cox's mother.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Connie Hyer, Jack Pinckert, Glen Edwards, (a friend of Sharon Egolf's), Brian Tagtow and Corey Perry.

Upcoming Events

Saturday August 19th: Men's breakfast at Jackson Ave. in Bartow at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday August 19th: Back to School Bash at the Grime's house at 6:30 p.m. All ages are invited! Please bring a lawn chair and dessert.

Saturday August 26th: 2nd Annual Teen Summit "Stand Up and Stand Out" at the Laura St. Church of Christ in Plant City from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Complimentary breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Our own Hiram Kemp will be the speaker.

Wednesday September 6th: Ladies class will resume every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 29th - Oct. 1st: A weekend of spiritual enrichment called **Rush** at Freed Hardeman University for middle school and high school students.

October 7th: South FL. Avenue's Ladies Day!

Hither, Thither and Yon

Courtney Williams and Heidi Bingle will be leaving to go back to college. Please keep them in prayer.

Question and Answer

There will be a Question and Answer Service once a month during the Sunday evening service. Please put any biblical question you have in the box in the foyer and they will be discussed at that time.

Visitors

Laura Rushing, Will & Autumn Vann, Rudy Brooks, Frances & Ebony Brooks, Destiny Brown, Victoria Stetson, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Byers, Joshua Potvin, Bridget Cook, Victor and Alexis Travis and Pauline Gilmore.



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Frank Hamby Table Fred Strickland
Chaz Hine Assist Bobby Simpson

Sunday, August 20, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal

Greeters The Williams
Att. Cards Willcut boy's
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. August 23, 2017

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Deal

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005

Sunday, August 27, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams.
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer C.J. Grimes
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards Paul & Ian
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. August 30, 2017

Song Leader Matt Willcut
Opening Prayer Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer Bobby Simpson

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| July 23..... | \$4,568.00 |
| July 30..... | \$5,817.95 |
| Aug 06..... | \$6,128.50 |
| Aug 13..... | \$5,116.75 |
| Contribution Average..... | \$5,352.56 |
| 2017 Weekly Budget..... | \$4,716.51 |

Are We "Binding" and "Loosing" as God Has? (continued from page 1)

that "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled" (Heb. 13:4). True, there were circumstances in which it was best not to marry (1 Cor. 7:7-8, 26, 28), but even if one married in those circumstances, Paul said, "you have not sinned" (1 Cor. 7:28)! It is one thing to say that it is better not to marry (1 Cor. 7:38), but it is anti-ism to say that one must not marry.

Likewise, eating "meat" was allowed by God, even though some were commanding it was sinful (1 Tim. 4:3). In that same context where Paul said God created meat to "be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth," he also wrote, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" (1 Tim. 4:3b-5). It took a heavenly vision for Peter to learn that truth (Acts 10:9-16), but truth it was, and truth it still is! True, there were some circumstances in which one sinned by eating meat; namely, if eating meat caused a brother to stumble (1 Cor. 8:7-13), or if eating meat violated one's own conscience (Rom. 14:20-23). However, it is one thing to say that there are certain occasions where one ought not to eat meat, but it is anti-ism to say that one must never eat meat. We must not bind what God has loosed!

In Part 2, consideration will be given to what liberalism and anti-ism have in common and how people in the religious world "bind and loose" contrary to God's will. We must follow God's word in order to be pleasing in His sight! ❤️ *Brian*



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

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



Coming Soon to South Florida Avenue

Beginning with the winter quarter, we will have a new Bible school curriculum. For those interested, our first training workshop will be Oct. 15 from 2:00-5:00 pm. See Hiram if you want to help.

The Church & The Home Working Together



Thank You, Teachers!

As public schools begin, we thank God and pray to Him for all our teachers, especially those who diligently teach our children the Bible. May God protect and reward you!



The Importance of Bible Study

Paul told Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). The term "be diligent" is translated from a word that means to be eager; give every effort. The word is found in 2 Peter 1:10 and 3:14, where it deals with diligently preparing for eternity. The translation "study" (KJV) in 2 Timothy 2:15 is fitting because there is no way to "rightly divide" the truth without studying God's word. We must study and apply the Bible to please God and be with Him in eternity! Bible study must start in the home and continue in the local church. The new Bible curriculum is designed to accomplish both aspects. Let's give diligence to study and teach the Bible!