



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 33 Aug. 15, 2023

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## EMAIL

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

## 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.

## WEB PAGE

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

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## HOME OF

*Florida School of Preaching*  
since 1969

**Missionary - Huron, SD**  
*Casey & Emily Paulin*

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## To Be “In Christ” Requires Obeying the Gospel

Brian R. Kenyon

Receiving the spiritual blessings of the truly abundant life necessitates that one be “in Christ” (Eph. 1:3), who is the only “door” through which these blessings can be received (Jn. 10:7-10). Obedience to the Gospel is the only way a person can begin, continue, and eternally enjoy the abundant life. God’s plan of salvation concerns two categories of accountable people: those who are outside of Christ (Rom. 3:23), and those who are in Christ, yet still sin (1 Jn. 1:8-10). This article will consider the former.

**Hearing God’s Word** — Those accountable souls who are outside of Christ must first hear the word of God. Paul confirmed that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). There is no other source of information we need besides the Bible to know what we must do to be pleasing to God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). However, hearing the word of God alone will not save us. There were many who heard God’s word on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-40), but only about three thousand souls repented and were baptized as God commanded (Acts 2:38 cf. Acts 2:41). Hearing God’s word without doing what it teaches will not save nor allow us the abundant life (Mt. 13:13-15; Lk. 6:46-49)!

**Faith in Jesus Christ** — Hearing God’s word must lead to faith. Again, Romans 10:17 teaches that true faith cannot come before nor “outrun” our knowledge of God. Biblical faith is not a blind leap in the dark! Furthermore, the Hebrews writer said that “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). One of the necessary things in which a sinner outside of Christ must have faith is that Jesus is the Messiah. He Himself said that “you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24). However, belief alone will not save. “Even the demons believe—and tremble!” (Jas. 2:19). John wrote, “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (Jn. 12:42-43).

**Repenting of Sin** — Faith must lead the sinner outside of Christ to repent of his or her sins. The basic meaning of repent is to turn. Thus, repenting from sin means turning away from sin and turning to God for Him to take care of it (cf. Acts 8:22). True repentance comes as a result of being confronted with the nature and consequences of sin (2 Cor. 7:7-8 cf. Isa. 59:1-2), and then having “godly sorrow” for that sin (2 Cor. 7:9-10). Seeing sin as God sees sin is the only way “godly sorrow” can be produced. God hates sin (Pr. 6:16-19), and so should we (Ps. 119:104; Pr. 8:13), especially in our own lives! Seeing sin as God sees it,

should melt our hearts to beg Him for forgiveness (cf. Ps. 51:1-3, 14-19). True repentance results in the reformation of life—change for good that is evident to all (2 Cor. 7:11). However, repentance is more than just regret. Judas was “remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders” (Mt. 27:3), yet he did not turn all the way back to God. Instead, “Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place” (Acts 1:25). The terms “repentance” and “remorse,” or “regret,” are similar in that they each involve a change of mind. For example, both Peter (in denying the Lord three times) and Judas had a change in mind over what they did, but only Peter turned all the way to God in repentance (cf. the incident in Jn. 21:15-17). Thus, repentance not only involves a change of mind, but it also involves a change of action that seeks God’s forgiveness!

**Confess Faith in Jesus Christ** — Repentance must lead the sinner outside of Christ to confess his or her faith in Christ. Others will not know one’s belief in Christ and willingness to turn from sins and serve Him unless that person confesses that belief in Him. Paul wrote, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:10). As seen earlier, confession of Christ is necessary in letting others know of an individual’s decision to follow Him (Jn. 12:42-43). Furthermore, confessing faith in Christ implies that the one so confessing has repented of sins. Paul wrote, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:19). However, confessing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, alone will not give one that abundant life. Demons verbally acknowledged, “Jesus, Son of the Most High God” (Lk. 8:28), but certainly are not saved!

**Being Baptized into Jesus Christ** — Confessing faith in Christ must lead the sinner outside of Christ to “be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Note the account of the eunuch from Ethiopia, who requested Philip to explain the one about whom the prophet Isaiah wrote (Acts 8:30-34 cf. Isa. 53:7-8). Philip, “beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him” (Acts 8:35). We know that Philip’s preaching included baptism because:

[A]s they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38)

Note how hearing, believing, repenting, and confessing faith in Christ were all involved in the eunuch’s baptism. Though each term may not have been explicitly stated, we know from the total teaching of the Bible that each was involved.

Baptism alone, of course, will not save a person outside of Christ nor give him or her that abundant life. Because one is immersed in water, thinking that he or she is saved, does not mean that person is truly saved or “in Christ” (cf. Acts 19:1-5). Biblical baptism must be preceded by hearing God’s word, believing that Jesus is the Christ, repenting of sin, and confessing faith in Christ. Not only are these the steps involved leading up to baptism, but each step must also be in the order given above or it cannot be true baptism, true confession, true repentance, or true belief.

## Conclusion

When the sinner outside of Christ is baptized into Christ, “he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). However, baptism is not the end of conversion. It is actually the beginning, the “new birth” (cf. Jn. 3:3, 5; 1 Pet. 1:22-23). When Paul said “all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17), he followed up by saying, “Now all things are of God” (2 Cor. 5:18). That is, when a person is baptized “into Christ,” he or she must “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4), following God’s word, even if it results in his or her death (Mt. 16:24-25; Rev. 2:10). When the person in Christ sins (1 Jn. 1:8, 10), he or she must repent and ask God’s forgiveness in order to remain saved (Acts 8:18-24; 1 Jn. 1:9), and continue being a recipient of the blessings involved in the abundant life!

**"[W]ork out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13)**

## PRAYER LIST

**Current** Shirley Loudermilk (health), Melissa Craft is home now but still needs our prayer, Sharon Egolf fell this past week and is recuperating at home. Cary Egolf (Sharon's son) health concerns

**Continual:** Wayne Shearer (health); Declan Potvin (eye); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Kathy Nester (health); Melody Baxter (health)

**Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French

Beth Wise passed away this past Tuesday, please keep her husband, Elmer and family in your prayers

Bea Pratt's sister Mildred Frances passed away in West Virginia. Let's all remember Bea and her family in our prayers.

*Our Fall Quarter begins on September 3!  
Vince needs volunteers to teach classes of ALL ages! Please let him know that you are willing to help with this !!*

### LADS TO LEADERS

L2L begins August 20th, registration forms are on Vince's door; have the forms filled out by the 20th if you wish to participate. Also, Parents let Vince know if you would like to help with Lads to Leaders

*The angels are rejoicing and so are we!! Hannah Hendrix put on Christ in baptism on Sunday August 13!! Welcome to the family Hannah! Let us all encourage her in her walk with the Lord!*



Ladies Night Out!  
At Rene' Bingle's house

Monday August 28 @6:00 P.M.

Bring a Salad and/or dessert to share!

Sign up on Bulletin Board in Utility Room

**Also:** bring a bag containing 3 items that are special to you that you will tell us about! It can be anything (a photo, something you collect, something from a trip you went on, a toy from your childhood, etc, etc) Let's get to know our sisters better!

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS WILL RESUME ON WED. SEPT. 6 @10:00 AM. CLASSES ARE HELD IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY. TEACHER IS MARION BEALS**

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### August

Designated Elder..... David Anderson

### Wednesday, Aug 16, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson  
Song Leader/prayer.....David Williams  
Devotional .....Stacey Paulin  
Closing Prayer .....Jeff Stewart

### Sunday, August 20, 2023

**10:30 A.M.**  
Sermon.....Vince Daugherty  
Guest Preacher - Deborah (Judges 4:4-8)  
**6:00 P.M.**  
Sermon.....Rick Kenyon

### Those to Serve

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Tucker Sweeney  
Song Leader (**both services**).....David Williams  
Announcements(**both**) .....David Anderson  
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Wayne Shearer  
Lord's Table (**both**).....Brian Williams  
Closing Prayer.....Joseph Faulk  
Open/Close bldg (**both**).....Jason Hendrix  
Greeters.....Nona/Janis  
Attendance cards (**both**).....Caelen/Cameron  
Sound Booth (**both**).....Jason Hendrix

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Roberson L  
Closing Prayer .....Mike VanAllen  
Greeters PM..... Bea/Jeanelle

### Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Announcements.....Stacey Paulin  
Song Leader/prayer.....Landon Willcut  
Devotional .....Joseph Faulk  
Prayer.....Andre Medley

### Upcoming Events 2023

#### August

19 Men's breakfast Haines City  
27 Fellowship in Service  
28 Ladies night out  
30 Quarterly challenge

#### September

5 Senior Saint's meeting  
6 Ladies Class 10 AM at SFA  
10 Elders/Deacons/Preacher meeting  
12 Ladies Bible Class

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 30.....\$10,663.00  
Aug 06.....\$11,519.00  
Aug 13 .....\$6,967.00  
Contribution Average.....\$7,136.59  
Weekly budget ..... \$7,410.00



## Are Our Blessings Really Blessings?

On my recent trip to Peru I believe we were ministered to by the people there as much or more than we ministered to them. One of the things that stands out in my mind is the attitude and receptiveness to the gospel that these people had when it appeared they were living in conditions that we would consider less than ideal according to our standards. They reminded me of the brethren that Paul describes in II Corinthians 8 "that in their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality." So I asked myself this question "are the things we living in America consider to be blessings, really blessings?" or could it be they are actually a curse. We spend a good deal of our time and energy accumulating things that collect dust and that consume our time but are these things what are really important? (Matt. 6:19-21) The people in PERU would stop whatever they were doing and give their full attention to study the Bible (Luke 11:28), they made time to listen. They may not have had a chair to sit on but they weren't embarrassed to welcome us into their home or to sit on the sidewalk and study the Bible. What about you (and me), do we have time to study the Bible and do we have time to share it with others or are we too busy dusting our "stuff" and running here and there to accumulate more? Are we embarrassed by the roof over our heads because it's not as nice as our neighbors, or are we thankful for whatever space we call home and are we willing to open it up to be hospitable to others even if there is dust on the coffee table. Let's make sure we use what God has given us to glorify Him (Matt. 5:16) and not allow our "things" to be a curse rather than a blessing.

**P**eople **E**verywhere **R**ely on **U**s to bring them the Gospel!

Youth Section

Vince Daugherty

### Lessons from II Timothy Equipped by God's Word

*One very detrimental thing we can teach our young people is that they are already perfect. I know you may think you are a "Muffin" and your parents may tell you that you are special. But, you are not and that is okay. You are still learning new things all the time. You make mistakes, change your opinions, and become more informed. Believe me, even adults are not perfect, we make mistakes, are constantly needing to learn new things, change dumb outdated opinions and need to become more informed. Paul told Timothy that he could be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Paul said through the study and knowledge of Scripture it can make one wise unto salvation. #1. God's Word gives us doctrine for how we ought to conduct ourselves. #2. God's Word gives us reproof and correction when we are in the wrong. Finally, #3. God's Word teaches us the right path to walk. May God equip you for every good work through the knowledge of His Word.*

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



### **South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all  
my heart,  
And I will glorify Your name  
forevermore."  
Psalm 86:12**



**If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.**