



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 34 August 25, 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

### *Righteous Resistance*

Hiram Kemp

In previous articles, we have spoken of the need to pray for those in power and also to submit to them. God commands us to pray and submit to governing rulers for our good and His glory (1 Pet. 2:13-15). When Christians are law abiding citizens, who follow the laws of the land, it helps people to see we are upright and holy people. We can shine our light as we view civil leaders as God's servants used ultimately for His purposes (Matt. 5:16). Also, we need to be praying for our civil leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-3). We are to pray that the gospel will be able to spread throughout the world. Additionally, we should be praying that they can come to a knowledge of the truth and be saved (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). With all of these things in mind, it is important to see that there does come a time when Christians cannot submit to civil leaders. There is a time where God expects us to disobey certain laws or people in power who would have us obey them. In this final article on our response to government, I want to mention when we are to defy our governing leaders and how this should be done by Christians.

### *Disobedience in Action*

The Book of Acts opens with the spread of the gospel as people in and around Jerusalem hear the good news about Jesus and obey the gospel (Acts 2:37-47). At one point early on there are more than 5,000 men who are members of the church (Acts 4:4). While the growth and spread of the gospel excite us, there were some who did not like the fact that Christianity was enjoying success. The Jewish authorities did not like the apostles preaching about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. They had many problems with Christ being preached, but one of their main problems was that it showed that they were guilty of orchestrating the crucifixion of the Son of God (Acts 2:36, 3:17). As people believed the preaching of Peter, John, and the others, they not only would leave Judaism as a religious faith, they would also look unfavorably on those who were in positions of power within Judaism.

As the apostles preached through Jesus the resurrection of the dead near Solomon's porch, they were put into custody by the temple authorities (Acts 4:1-3). They had questions about the power the apostles were exercising and about how they were able to miraculously heal a man who had been lame his entire life (Acts 4:5-7, cf. 3:1-2). They were probably not surprised to find out that the apostles were doing their miracles through the power of Jesus, the same Jesus they had been preaching; and the same Jesus the leaders had previously rejected (Acts 4:10-12). Though the Sanhedrin council was unable to deny the miracle that was done, they chose to threaten the apostles and command them not to preach or teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:13-18). It is here that we see the apostles respond by letting them know that they would not be able to comply with the council's wishes. They had to preach the truth about Jesus Christ even if they were going to be threatened and punished for doing so (Acts 4:19-21). The apostles did not intend to abide by the command to stop preaching about Jesus.

Whenever a law of man conflicts or contradicts a law of God, we must always obey the law of God. The apostles set an example for us to follow. Governing authorities have delegated authority from God. They are not the ultimate. God allows them to rule in a certain way over certain things, but sometimes they forget their limitations (John 19:10-11). Shortly after their initial confrontation with the Sanhedrin council, the apostles are again brought before them because they continue to preach when they were commanded to cease (Acts 5:28). In response to the council's commands not to preach Christ, Peter utters the famous statement "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). The apostles were beaten and eventually released, but again it should be noted that they refused to comply with a "law" or command that would prohibit them from doing God's will (Acts 5:40).

While the righteous resistance found in the Book of Acts is more well known by most Bible students, we should also acquaint ourselves with the Book of Revelation on this topic. By the time Revelation was written, the Romans had begun to persecute Christians and demand emperor worship. The Christians would not practice idol worship even though the "state of Rome" attempted to enforce it on all of its subjects. They were to be faithful even in the face of death (Rev. 2:10). Being sealed by God was more valuable to these Christians than being sealed by Rome (Rev. 7:1-17, 13:11-18). If our government ever attempts to force us to go against the law of God (i.e. stop preaching Christ, practice immoral behavior, etc.) we will have to obey God rather than men.

Furthermore, there is much to learn from the Old Testament and how some of the faithful men and women under the old covenant responded to ungodly leaders (Rom. 15:4). When the three Hebrew boys were told to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue, they refused even though

it meant they would be thrown into the fire (Dan. 3:13-18). Daniel would not stop praying even when it led to his being thrown into the lion's den (Dan. 6:1-10). God intervened and saved Daniel and his friends, but they were willing to go against the unrighteous laws imposed upon them even if they were not delivered.

### *Resisting with the Spirit of Christ*

It is imperative that we keep in mind that if we are ever put into a situation where we must disobey civil leaders that we must still do so with the spirit of Christ (Gal. 5:22-23). When we read of the apostles doing this in the Book of Acts, they remained respectful, kind, and poised even though they were in defiance. They gathered together to pray for boldness (Acts 4:23-31); rejoiced that they were able to suffer for the name of Christ (Acts 5:41); and kept on preaching the word (Acts 4:4, 5:42). I pray that we are never in a similar situation, but if that time comes, we must respond as the Christians did in the first century. Our speech will still need to be seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6). We will still need to be those who represent Jesus in every aspect of our lives (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17). We will still need to be praying that God turns the hearts of those who are in opposition to his will.

If we, as Christians, can remember that God rules in the kingdoms of men, it will deepen our faith and encourage our resolve (Dan. 4:25). The government is not inherently evil, and we should not view our leaders as our enemies. They need our prayers and submission. Still, if and when they place laws that are contrary to God's law and demand that we obey them we must refuse. There is a time to pray, a time to submit, and a time to resist (Eccl. 3:1). May we be praying for the ability to exercise the wisdom that we need to do these things in the way that God would have us to (James 1:5).

## **TEACHERS and HELPERS**

**If you are scheduled to teach or to be a teacher's assistant next quarter (beginning September 6, 2020), please make plans to attend the Teacher Workshop on August 30th at 4:00 pm in the library. There will be a tutorial on the online app that is used during class.**

### **Youth Group** by Vince Daugherty

Habakkuk 2:20 - **"But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."** Have your parents ever sat you down and said, "Do not talk. Now is the time to listen"? Sometimes we do not know when it is best to be quiet and just listen. God, who is all-wise, desires what is best for us. We, therefore, need to be quiet and listen to Him. Life can be noisy and distracting. If we let those noises and distractions get to us, how can we ever listen to what God has to say? It may be uncomfortable in the beginning, but that silence is good. This week pick out a spot where you can find some peace and quiet away from the noise. When you can find that good spot away from distraction, open your Bible, and read what God has to say.

## *Senior Saints*

by John McShane

In today's world where social media is so prevalent, it becomes very easy to disagree with a lot of things we find on it. But, what can we do about it? Many are tempted to reply in ways that do no good whatsoever. I came across a statement the other day that seemed to make a lot of sense to me. It stated; "Never argue with an idiot. People watching won't be able to tell the difference". Seems like good advice as we go about our daily lives. There are several passages in the Bible that back up this thought. 2 Timothy 2:23-24 reads in the ESV, **"Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil."** And Proverbs 26:4 is even more explicit, **"Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself."**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Frank Hamby  
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt  
 Nikki Williams  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Cierra Edwards  
 Bruce Longfellow  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Kathy Nester  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

## PRAYER LIST

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

Ron & Judy Ford  
 Tonya Anderson  
 Ray Nashick  
 Bob Pratt  
 Geny Johnson  
 Margaret Coone  
 George Davis  
 Margaret Norman

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

## 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** (friend of Sharon Washington)  
**Carl Chambers**  
**Rosie Patterson** (Medulla member)  
**Marcia Allen** (Ingrid Stewart's friend in Jamaica)  
**Steve Higginbotham** (minister at Karns congregation in Knoxville, TN)



## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

To **Cieara Edwards** on the passing of her friend, Nicole Hall, on August 19.

## UPDATES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

**Tonya Anderson** is scheduled for sinus surgery on August 25.  
**Nikki Williams** is still in Lakeland Regional.  
**Brenda Mask** is having a cat scan on Friday, August 28.

Please update your directory:  
**Vince & Tiffany Daugherty**  
 4037 Festival Pointe  
 Mulberry 33860



*Welcome  
 to SFA*

Nigel St. Bernard  
 Mike Van Allen

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### August

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Devo ..... David Anderson  
 Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

### Sunday, August 30, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"The Life of a Living Sacrifice, pt. 2"*  
*Romans 12:15-21*

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"Learning from the Words of Pilate"*

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) ..... David Deal  
 Song before class/Prayer ... Vince Daugherty  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Andre' Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Wesley Brunson  
 Lord's Table ..... George Davis  
 Closing Prayer..... Curtis Morelock

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer .... Vince Daugherty  
 Lord's Table ..... George Davis  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle

### Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Devo ..... Jeff Stewart  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

## 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 ~

Aug 9	\$8,414.00
Aug 16	\$6,768.00
Aug 23	\$6,648.00
Contribution Average	\$7,117.98

When I was a teenager, my mom used to leave the front porch light on until I had made it home and inside for the night. I knew my way home, and could easily make it inside without the help of the small light by the front door but never the less, it was always on until everyone in the house was home for the night.

Growing up in Florida, I have been blessed to see several beautiful lighthouses on the coast. Anyone who operates a boat in the same region for some time comes to know the water in that area like the back of their hand. Still, lighthouses operate as a beacon for those new in an area to warn them of danger, or simply remind those far more familiar with the region to stay vigilant to impending danger.

Do you leave your light on to guide others to a place of warmth and safety, to show others you care about their well being? Can you be considered a beacon? Are you one who helps to guide the erring back to the right, whether it is for those in your family or those whom you have never met as a lighted vessel passing in a dark world (Matthew 4:16). You may never know the impact it could have on one another (Matthew 5:16).



"Into our hands the gospel is given, Into our hands is given the light, Haste, let us carry God's precious message, Guiding the erring, back to the right."



## The Gospel Plan of Salvation

The grace of God extended  
Ephesians 2:4-7

Hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ  
Romans 10:17

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God  
John 8:24, 20:30-31

Repentance  
Acts 17:30

Confessing Jesus as God's Son  
Romans 10:9-10

Baptism for the forgiveness of Sins  
Acts 2:38, 22:16

Faithful Christian Living  
Colossians 1:23; 1 John 1:7



**Mondays** - 2 Peter Class, 7:00 p.m.

**8/30** - Fellowship In-service, 4:30 p.m.,  
fellowship hall

**8/30** - 5th Sunday Building Fund Collection

**9/6** - Fall Quarter begins, "Miracles of the Bible"

**9/13** - Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting  
4:30 p.m., library

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

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

Find us on social media



"AND THIS IS THE PROMISE THAT HE HAS PROMISED US—ETERNAL LIFE."

1 JOHN 2:25

**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested