



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

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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

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Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Revised Lies Euthanized

Brian R. Kenyon

Who made “Uncle Tom” a bad guy? Those who have actually read Harriet Beecher Stowe’s 1852 novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, will know that “Uncle Tom” was a good guy. He was the Christ-like figure in the plot who actually died an excruciating death, in part, because he would not reveal what he knew about two runaway slave girls. Yet today, the term “Uncle Tom” is used as one of the most degrading insults among those within a certain ethnical group. Even the descendants of the people the original novel was meant to help (by shedding light on their plight), believed the lies white supremacists twisted from the original plot (before strong copyright laws). Thus, the ones whom the original was intended to help are the ones who are actually harmed! There are much more spiritually damnable lies perpetrated by Satan (who wants to harm) about God (who wants to help)! All these lies start with an attack on God and/or His word (cf. Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44). Satan’s goal is to eliminate or pervert the knowledge of God’s word (cf. Lk. 8:12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 11:13-15)! Below is an examination of three areas where many lies are revised and still believed.

“Evolution Is [Disguised as] Scientific”

In 1859, Charles Darwin’s book, *The Origin of Species*, revitalized and popularized the theory of organic evolution. Since that time, many evolutionary twists of truth have occurred, even if supported by “science falsely so called” (1 Tim. 6:20, KJV). The theory of organic evolution denies that humans or anything else was created. Yet, true science indicates no evidence for Darwinian evolution. If organic evolution were true, there should be thousands, if not millions of transitory (“missing link”) fossils in the record! Yet, there are only a handful they claim, but when further scrutinized and investigated do not prove what they purport. Furthermore, when considering what the God-breathed word teaches, we know organic evolution cannot be true. “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day” (Ex. 20:11). Humans did not evolve from lesser life forms as organic evolution boasts. Rather, “God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ...’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:26-27).

Another twisted consequence of organic evolution is the notion that people with dark skin color are less advanced and thus not as worthy as light-skinned people. Truth, on the other hand, teaches that God “has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26). Furthermore, truth teaches God, the creator of all things created, is not partial to any skin color (Rom. 2:11). In fact, as Peter proclaimed, “God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by

Him” (Acts 10:34-35). It seems the main draw to organic evolution is the explanation of the universe without reference to God. These pseudo-scientists seem to think they are smarter than God. Again, truth would counter, “let God be true but every man a liar” (Rom. 3:3-4 cf. 1 Cor. 1:18–2:5)!

“Denominationalism Is [Disguised as] Christian Unity”

Protestant denominationalism, which began in 1517 (way after the Lord’s church was established in Acts 2:22-41, 47 cf. Mt. 16:18-19), claims that all who are of “Christendom” are going to heaven, but are on different roads. On the surface they claim all the denominations have equally good standing before God, but most think others should be part of their group, which makes a person doubt their claim. However, no denomination is mentioned in the Bible, or, more importantly, no distinctively denominational doctrine that identifies one denomination over another can be found in the Bible. It is not what the Bible teaches that makes one denomination different from another. It is that denomination’s creed or unscriptural teaching that makes that denomination different from others!

Truth teaches that God authorizes only one church, the church that Jesus promised and was built on the first Day of Pentecost following the Lord’s resurrection (Acts 2:1-47). Jesus promised, “on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18). Notice the singular personal pronouns, “I” and “my.” The antecedent to both of these is “Jesus,” or “Christ” (Mt. 16:16-17). Thus, the church of Jesus, or the church of Christ, is *not* a denomination. It is the real thing! The church is also called the “body of Christ” (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12 cf. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18), and “There is one body” (Eph. 4:4). Being the church of Christ is not merely having that name on a building. More importantly, it must involve patterning belief and practice on what the New Testament — and the New Testament alone — teaches. This source is sometimes called “the gospel” (Mk. 16:15), “the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42), “the word” (2 Tim. 4:2), “sound doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:3), “the truth” (2 Tim. 4:4), or “the doctrine of Christ” (2 Jn. 9). The only church God recognizes is the one that exclusively uses the total teaching of the Bible for its authority and identity (cf. Mt. 7:21-23; Lk. 6:46; Eph. 4:11-16). How the church is organized also matters. Where men are qualified (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), God wants shepherds (also known as elders and overseers) to be over the local church in optional matters, for God has already determined the church’s obligations (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17), and deacons to serve as special servants (cf. Phil. 1:1). Local church membership is also important. God wants His people to worship together (Eph. 5:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2) and to work and function as a body (1 Cor. 12:12-27). These things are impossible if church members are “free-lancing” at home online or roaming from one congregation to another, with no plans of working with His people!

“Culture Is [Disguised as] Better without Reference to God”

Since at least the 1960s, efforts have been ongoing to remove God from public life. The consequences of this are apparent in many aspects of daily living. However, one of the most damaging aspects of this is realized in the institution of marriage and the family. God has blessed husband and wife with certain privileges that are only intended in marriage, yet our culture has run rampant with many in “co-habiting” relationships thinking they can enjoy sexual relationships, as if they were married, with no consequences. It is interesting that people in these unmarried relationships will often refer to each other “spouse” or “husband/wife”! Why is that? Could it be they know God’s plan, do not want to follow it, but still seek legitimacy? The damage these relationships do to families goes far beyond the two people living in fornication (cf. Gal. 6:7-8).

Marriage still matters to God. On the sixth day of creation, God said, after He created the woman, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24 cf. Mt. 19:5-6; Eph. 5:31-33). Any sexual relationship between two people (no matter their sex/gender) outside of God-ordained marriage is fornication (Gal. 5:19), including “same sex” (i.e., homosexual) marriage and unauthorized heterosexual marriage (Mt. 19:9; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Jude 7).

Conclusion

We can turn the tide of the erosion these lies have had. To do this, we must study, know, and be confident of the truth of God’s word. We must also beware of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:10-13), and employ the armor of God (Eph. 6:14-18). Nothing that “exalts itself against the knowledge of God” can defeat the “weapons of our warfare ... mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:3-5)!

PRAYER LIST

Current Rachel Zapata (has been sick this week), Shirley Loudermilk (health), Melissa Craft is home now but still needs our prayer, Beverly Adams (ongoing health concerns) Charles Paulin (recent fall) is in Carpenters Home Manor Rehab, George Davis (legally blind in R eye) The Shearer family are all sick with a cold this week

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)

Lads to Leaders will begin on Sunday Sept. 3

We will be meeting the first Sunday of each month.

Let Vince know if you would like to be involved either as a participant or a helper.

Gospel Meeting at Griffin Road church of Christ

Sept 17-20, 2023

Theme: **Fill the Void**

Speaker- Tom Hall from Bowling Green, KY

See the flyer on the bulletin board for additional information.

Rita Bauer wishes to thank everyone who helped her celebrate her birthday recently. Thank you for the cards, prayers and gifts!

LADIES BIBLE CLASS
WILL RESUME ON WED.
SEPT. 6 at 10:00 AM.

CLASSES ARE HELD IN
THE CHURCH LIBRARY.

TEACHER IS MARION
BEALS

There is also a Ladies
Class that meets on

Tuesday Evenings at 7 PM.

These classes will start
back on Oct. 10

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST HAINES CITY

Sept. 15th-17th, 2023

FRI 7:00 PM
My decision as a young man to become a
Christian can also be your decision.

SAT 7:00 PM
Growing the Church through the youth.

SUN 9:30 AM
How to connect with the youth.

10:30 AM
The importance of attendance and
participation for parents and the youth

6:00 PM
The youth are not the church of
tomorrow, they are the church of today.



GUEST SPEAKER | Forest Antemasaris

Forest Antemasaris preaches at the Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale, FL. Forest did not grow up as a Christian but obeyed the Gospel going into his senior year of high school. He has degrees from the Florida School of Preaching, Freed-Hardeman University, and Liberty University. Forest and his wife Loriann live in Winter Haven with their son Silas. Forest is passionate about God's Word, Christ's church, apologetics, and helping young people see the need for God in their lives.

You're Invited!
GOSPEL MEETING

1232 Robinson Dr | Haines City FL 33844

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Designated Elder..... Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023

Announcements.....Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader/prayer.....Brian Kenyon
DevotionalVince Daugherty
Prayer.....George Beals

Sunday, September 3, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
"A History Lesson and a Promise" (Neh. 9,10)

6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Rick Kenyon
"Submit Yourselves to God" (James 4:7-10)

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Frank Hamby
Song Leader (**both services**)...Tucker Sweeney
Announcements(**both**)Brian Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (**both**).....Brian Williams
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Bingle
Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Anderson
Greeters.....Shearers
Attendance cards (**both**).....Sawyer/Ellis
Sound Booth (**both**).....Jason Hendrix

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Scripture reading/PrayerRoberson
Closing PrayerTerrance Dindy
Greeters PM.....The Van Allens

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson
Song Leader/prayer.....Brian Kenyon
Devotional..... Bobby Sheumaker
Prayer.....Camron Bailey

Upcoming Events 2023

August

30 Quarterly challenge

September

5 Senior Saint's meeting
6 Ladies Class 10 AM at SFA
10 Elders/Deacons/Preacher meeting
12 FSOP Ladies Bible Class @ 7:00 PM
15-17 Gospel Meeting @ Central in Haines City

October

7 Ladies Day at SFA

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 13.....	\$6,967.00
Aug 20.....	\$4,856.60
Aug 27	\$5,590.91
Contribution Average.....	\$7,017.04
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

Where There's A Will, There's a Way

On my way home after worship service one Sunday, I saw a man in a wheelchair near Kathleen high school. About an hour later, I spotted him by Winston Elementary. This man had only one leg and was in a self-propelled wheelchair with a bag of groceries in his hand. Apparently, he had gone to the store and was on his way back home. I don't know how much further he had to travel to get home, but one thing was for sure: he had not allowed his limitations to stop him from getting where he wanted to go. Where there's a Will there's a Way!

What obstacles do we allow to stand in our way of worshipping God or reading His word? My mother had to spend the last seven years of her life in a nursing home. After a few months, I was determined to bring her to worship services. I started out picking her up in a borrowed accessible van, and eventually had to use a transport service when the van was no longer available. I remember reading an article in House to House Heart to Heart about a man who lost his eyesight and hands, but learned to read the bible in braille by using his tongue. Where there's a Will there's a Way!

In Mark 2:2-5 and Luke 5:17-20, read about a man sick with palsy whose friends were determined- Where there's a Will there's a Way!

Lessons from II Timothy

The Work of a Minister (II Tim. 4:5)

Jesus said that the truth was redemptive, it is what sets us free (John 8:31). That is exactly why Paul charged Timothy to preach the word (II Tim. 4:2) especially when it seems like people don't want to hear it because they have itching ears and simply want to hear fables (II Tim. 4:3,4). This is when the work of a minister is especially needed, but difficult to do. Paul told Timothy, #1 Be watchful. Threats can come from all kinds of angles. #2 Endure afflictions. To stand for the truth may cause you to stand in unpopular positions. If persecutions or hardships come your way, stand firm and endure. #3 Do the work. Ask any minister and they will say, Sundays are the best day, when the work is done. The real work is during the Monday through Saturday--Late nights and early mornings in study and prayer; visiting ones in times of need and crisis; Bible studies, and responding to questions; counseling; encouraging. It is a lot of work but it is the most rewarding as well.-VD



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 PM on these dates with instructor Susan Stearsman

August 8, 2023	January 15-18, 2024 - 49th Annual Lectureship
September 12, 2023	February 20, 2024
October 24, 2023	March 12, 2024
November 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM (this class only)	April 9, 2024
December 12, 2023	May 14, 2024
	June 11, 2024
	July 9, 2024



"Study to show thyself approved unto God, A workman that needeth not be ashamed" (1Tim. 2:15)

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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

1 Thessalonians 5:18



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