

Summer Is Over . . . But Faithfulness to God Never Is!

Labor Day is over, and what a great Labor Day it was! Sixth Street's 21st Labor Day Lectureship in the morning, with our own Bob McAnally preaching on "Earth Holds No Treasure," and the Haines City Labor Day youth cookout and devotional with two speakers and almost an hour of singing in the afternoon. Some of our young people and adults attended both events! With the passing of Labor Day, summer has symbolically ended. Being in a Christian environment (such as at Bible camps, VBS's, and youth events) makes it easier to live God's word. However, our faithfulness cannot depend of being around Christians all the time. Certainly, we must seek to be around faithful members of the church of Christ as often as we can, but we will never be able to do so all the time. However, we must remain faithful to God, even if no other Christian is with us. Paul told the Philippians, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). Paul was with these Christians at one time, but he could not be with them all the time. It would be nice to always have an apostle near by, as it would to always be in a Christian environment, but, again, that is not going to happen. The term "work out" means to do, accomplish, or bring about, and views the progress of the Christian life as moving toward the ultimate goal of heaven. Paul was saying that Christians need to work on to the finish! So let's live for God now at school, work, or wherever we are, even if no other Christians are with us, and we must stand alone! ❤️ Brian



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

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit No. 254



Return Service Requested

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 7 the Bible Bowl teams will meet at 5:00 pm. Please study and be ready for Galatians 1.

Sunday, September 14 will be our next Lads to Leaders day. Our young people are working hard on the activities and projects that are helping them learn the Bible. Thanks to all our participating children and adult volunteers!

Tuesday, September 16 will be the FSOP ladies class. They will do a character study on Ruth. Teenager girls would benefit greatly from the study.

Saturday, September 20 will be our next youth devotional and activity. It was previously scheduled to be hosted by the Bingles, but will now be hosted by the Kenyons.



On Friday thru Sunday, September 26-28, Central Florida Bible Camp will have its annual "Live Saved" weekend for teens. If you are interested in attending, please see Brian or Jagie.

ONE Study **Galatians**
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians

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

"Pew Packers" will meet every Sunday evening at 5:45 to learn the Bible!

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. 67 No. 36 9-9-14

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Robert McAnally
(863) 682-3600

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Abraham Who?

It amazes me how often people question the wisdom of studying the Old Testament. Surely we should understand that we are no longer under the Old Law but under the New (Hebrews 8:6-13), but this does not discount the usefulness of that Old Law. Others might complain that the Old Testament is boring and long. There are even those who appear to be pious because of how they emphasized that there is so much to learn in the New Testament that we should really learn it first since it is what we are under. All of these reasons appear good on the surface, but not one of them respects the true value and need of studying the Old Testament as God has told us to do.

Paul, writing to the church at Rome, said, *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”* (Romans 15:4). The great apostle said this immediately after quoting Psalm 69:9. Therefore, there are many principles that we should learn from Paul’s use of the Old Testament. Paul wrote about and recognized that the Old Law had been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14), but he said that there was still a place for it. In fact, he shows us that by understanding it, we can gain greater insight into our hope. The Old Testament teaches many of the same principles as the New, and we can learn from it by applying these principles. It is filled with exciting stories of men and women who risked their lives and gave up physical pleasures in order to please God. The stories of Joshua leading the Israelites into battle are filled with action and adventure, as are those of David. It tells us of the beautiful love stories of Jacob and Rachel, and Ruth and Boaz. The Bible is not dull by any means. The beauty of Hebrew poetry throughout the Psalms is obvious, and the prophets discuss the nature of God. The New Testament is filled with quotations and references to the Old Testament. How are we to truly understand these references in context if we do not know the background of that quotation or account? How can we appreciate the impact of Hebrews 11 if we know nothing of what these men and women have done? When Paul uses Abraham as a great example of faith, it is assumed that we should know what he has done and that Paul was simply pointing out what caused him to do it (Romans 4). The great flood shows that God will be just and yet provide a way to escape his wrath. The saving action of Noah and his family from that terrible destruction is then equated by the apostle Peter to the saving action of baptism today (1 Peter 3:20-21).

The Old Testament was written for our learning. It gives us the background that we must have if we are to understand the teachings of Christ and his inspired apostles and prophets. A failure to study the Old Testament shows that one really has no desire to understand the New. The Bible is one book, a beautiful unfolding of the scheme of redemption. Brethren, let us not cast aside anything that God has written, but let us use it and learn from it that we might be more pleasing to God (2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11).

--Kevin Rhodes

The Deceiver of the Whole World

James E. Farley

Revelation 12:9 speaks of our adversary, the devil, "...Satan, which deceiveth the whole world..." This is the devil's real power -- actually, his only real power today. He is a liar and the father of it! (John 8:44). He makes evil things look good, and good things look evil; he puts darkness for light and light for darkness, bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (Isaiah 5:20). He has always done this through his "ministers" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15), and there are "many deceivers" working for their master (Titus 2:10; 2 John 7). Paul warned Timothy that "...evil men and seducers (impostors -- ASV) shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13). John said, "...many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1) and commands that we "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God..." Jesus wants us to "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." The Lord says we can "...know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-20).

There is an old illustration that helps us to better see the work of Satan. It is said that some boys in a small town decided to play a prank on the owner of the local hardware store. They knew of a window in the back of the store that was usually left unlocked, so they entered the store one night and worked diligently changing all the price tags. The next morning people were very surprised to find a lawnmower selling for \$6.95 and a pad lock selling for \$255.95. There was a can of house paint for \$78.00 and a stepladder for \$8.50. A pocketknife had a price tag on it for \$195.00, and a chain saw was selling for \$15.50. It would be an understatement to say that there was some confusion in the store that morning! The store had to be closed and an inventory taken so that the right value could be placed on the proper items.

Well, that is what Satan has done in this old world. He has "changed all the price tags around" so that what God calls good and right, Satan has people convinced is bad and foolish. What God calls evil -- and even an abomination -- Satan calls "an alternate life style." What God calls murder, Satan calls "choice." And, when faithful followers of God go throughout the world attempting to instill the value system of God upon the hearts of people, many cry out, "These that have turned the world upside down and come hither also" (Acts 17:6). Actually, what we are attempting to do is to turn an already upside down world right side up, but, from their warped vantage point, the world sees the opposite. It has always been so.

You see, Christians have meekly and humbly submitted their will to God's divine will (James 1:21; Romans 10:3; 1 Peter 5:6-7). We realize that his ways and his thoughts are much higher and much better than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). The world has not done this, and they, therefore, do not understand us. They will often "speak evil" of us (1 Peter 4:3-5). We who have left the ways of the world to follow the true and living God (1 Thessalonians 1:9) -- we who have "escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" must not allow ourselves to become "again entangled therein, and overcome..." (2 Peter 2:20-22). We must not depart from God and "be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:12-13). We must not just hear the Word without doing what the Word demands, for, in so doing, we are "deceiving our own selves" (James 1:22). We must not be conformed to the ways of this wicked world, but, rather, we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

Satan is real, and he is, indeed, the great deceiver! We must be not "ignorant of his devices." If we are, he will certainly gain the advantage of us! Beware!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Louise Starks is not doing well. Rosalind Coleman, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, Jacquelin Dopwell & Margaret Coone.

Relatives: Eddie Richardson, Amanda Del Gado, Bob Kirkland, Wayne Hendrix & Emma Rodgers (sister of Virginia Walker).

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

Others: Bill Carroll, Jeanne Frye, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner & Bonnie Hendricks.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 3rd: - The Ladies Bible class will be each Wednesday at 10:00 am. All ladies are invited to attend.

Sept. 14th: - Lads to Leaders will meet.

Sept. 14th: - Joey Treat will be here to give a report on the work in the Pacific Islands.

Sept. 20th: - Men's Breakfast will be at the So. Florida Avenue congregation in Lakeland at 8:00 am.

Sept. 20th: - The Youth Devotional and Activity will be hosted by the Kenyon's.

Visitors

Chance Garrett, Linda Pennington.

THE VICTOR

If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you like to win but think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost.
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will.
It's all in the state of mind.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man.
But sooner or later, the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Walking The Walk"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Sam Crow
Fred Rapley **Assist** Kyle Williams

September 7, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Brian Kenyon
Prayer Sam Crow

10:30 A.M.

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

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer David Anderson
Greeters The Sweeney Family
Att. Cards Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wed. September 10, 2014

Song Leader Kyle Bingle
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

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

Sunday, September 14, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Brian Kenyon

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer Bob Pratt

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Greeters The Anderson Family
Att. Cards Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building Phil fife

Wed. September 17, 2014

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer John McShane

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Aug 10	\$4,630.20
Aug 17	\$4,072.55
Aug 24	\$4,454.15
Aug 31	\$4,660.00
Contribution Average	\$4,518.49
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38