



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 37 September 15, 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

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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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.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

Hiram Kemp

The Bible is a book about faith for the faithful. In fact, faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). On occasion, the word faith is thrown around loosely by people in religion. We may speak of being a person of faith. We might hear someone say that they have faith in God. While all of those are good sentiments to express faith, it is much more than a verbal declaration that we are religious, and we believe in God. Faith is described as the victory which overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). This also tells us that those who do not have faith will be overcome by the world. Therefore, we should be clear about what the Bible means when it speaks of faith. In both the Old and New Testaments, the idea of faith involves belief in the mind, but it is much more than this. Faith is to trust and being willing to obey God because we believe that He will do what He promises (cf. Acts 27:25). Faith leads to victory for those who possess it and exercise it in a way consistent with scripture. Notice a few important things the Bible says on the subject of faith.

WE CANNOT PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH

Hebrews 11 has long been considered the great Bible chapter on faith. The word faith is mentioned or implied in just about every verse of the chapter. In Hebrews 11:6, we are told that without faith, it is impossible to please God. This is must be of utmost importance to every person in the world. Sometimes people ask about those who have never heard of God, Jesus, or the Bible and whether or not one can be saved in a condition of ignorance. All accountable people must possess faith, first of all, in God and His existence before they can be pleasing to Him. The writer of the Book of Hebrews further explains why faith in God is necessary. Those who approach God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6, KJV).

The fool says God is not there or behaves as if He is not present (Psa. 14:1). However, if we are going to please God, we must first believe that He exist because it is only then that we will approach Him and seek Him out (Isa. 55:6). Notice also that God can be pleased. He is not a hardened taskmaster with unrealistic demands. While mere faith in God's existence is not all that is required for one to please God, it is a good start. Faith matters because pleasing God matters, and we cannot please God without faith.

FAITH IN JESUS AS THE MESSIAH IS ESSENTIAL

Hebrews 11:6 is a good starting point, but there is more to victorious faith than a general belief in the existence of God. Throughout the gospel of John, the point is being driven home to the reader that one must believe that Jesus is the Christ (God's Messiah) in order to be saved (John 3:16). John says the very reason why he wrote his gospel is so people could come to faith in Christ and have eternal life (John 20:30-31). Jesus clearly stated that those who do not believe that He is God will die in their sins (Jn. 8:24; cf. Exod. 3:14). No one can remain neutral or in opposition to Christ and be saved.

Jesus was constantly demonstrating that He was the Son of God and asking others if they believed this to be true (John 9:35-38). Jesus wanted His contemporaries to know that what they thought about Him was the most important thought they possessed. The inspired writers of the New Testament preserved this message and wrote it down so we, too, could reflect on who Jesus is, believe (have faith) in Him, and be saved.

The Philippians jailor was to believe in the Lord Jesus with his house, and he would be saved (Acts 16:30-31). The Corinthians also believed, were baptized, and were saved (Acts 18:8). Though many in the denominational world misrepresent what the Bible teaches about faith, we must be careful not to shy away from this vital subject. Faith alone is a false doctrine (James 2:24). However, everything in the plan of salvation hinges on whether or not a person has faith to begin with. Without faith, one will not repent, confess, or be baptized into Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. For this reason, Paul could summarize the plan of salvation by saying, "we are saved by grace through faith" (Eph. 2:8-9). Still, let us keep in mind that it is a very specific type of faith being described. The faith that saves is the faith that is linked to belief in Jesus as the Son of God. The one who believes in Jesus as the Son of God has eternal life (John 3:18). Therefore, when someone claims to be a person of faith, the question should be, "faith in whom? Or faith in what?" Faith in general is no good at all. Faith in Jesus as the Son of God saves.

FAITH IN ACTION

Biblical faith is marked by action. No one is lauded as a person of faith in the Bible who simply possessed mental assent about truths shared with them. In Hebrews 11, we read of Old Testament faithful witnesses who had faith and their faith caused them to act. Abraham is heralded as the father of the faith and rightly so. It is not because Abraham was the first person in the Bible to have faith (cf. Gen. 5:24). Abraham is regarded as the father of the faith because of the drastic steps he took to

evidence his faith and the promises made to him by God. Abraham is told to leave his family and go to a land that God would show him, and he did (Gen. 12:1-4). Abraham is later told to circumcise his entire household, and he obeys (Gen. 17:9-14, 23-27). Perhaps the greatest challenge to Abraham's faith was the command to offer his son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah, and yet, Abraham was willing to do it (Gen. 22).

When we turn to the New Testament, we read of Paul telling us that Abraham is the father of the faithful (Rom. 4:16). Abraham did not stagger (KJV) or waver (ESV, NASB) concerning God's promises, but he remained strong in faith because he believed God could do what He promised (Rom. 4:20). However, Paul does not mention all of these things about Abraham simply for us to receive a history lesson. Paul concludes that what we learn from Abraham, we will be declared righteous by God if we believe, or have faith, in Jesus (Rom. 4:24-25). With all we know about Abraham, it is clear what Paul meant by saying if we trust God and walk with Him in a way similar to Abraham, we can be faithful just like Abraham. Whatever God says, we must be willing to obey. We must do what God commands even when it does not make sense or is difficult. Abraham remained strong in faith, and his example is one we need to follow (Rom. 4:23, 15:4). Faith is essential to pleasing God. Faith in Jesus is what every accountable person must possess and demonstrate to be saved (Acts 4:12). Our faith should be accompanied by action. Let us remember our faith is the victory which overcomes the world (1 John 5:4)!

Senior Saints

by John McShane

A friend sent me this lovely little item recently, "If you made a mistake, apologize. If you are thankful, say it. If you are confused, ask questions. If you learn something, teach it. If you are stuck, ask for help. If you are wrong, admit it. If you can unselfishly give, give. If you love someone, tell them, now."

When you look at this advice and think about it you will find a Bible verse that backs it up. All the advice that we need today was written over 2000 years ago and is still viable today. The following Bible verses apply to what is written above. Hebrews 12:14-15 reads; "**Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.**" Psalm 34:15 applies; "**Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.**" And also 1 John 4:7-8; "**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.**"

When we need advice in our daily life Christian know where to find it. The Holy Bible. Let us show others where the best advice is.

Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

"Noah was perfect in his generations."

Noah walked with God and not like the world (Genesis 6:9)

Noah believed God and obeyed not like the world (Genesis 6:22)

Noah and his family were saved not like the world (1 Peter 3:20)

Are you taking lessons from Noah or the world?

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
 Darlene Thompson

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

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** new prayer requests.
 Arlis Roberts: (Darlene Thompson's cousin's son).

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

RESPONSE

Rose Brooks responded to the Lord's invitation.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Brenda Mask is scheduled for a PET scan on Wednesday, September 16. Also keep the Dunnellon church of Christ congregation in prayer.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as two souls have put on Christ in baptism. Please introduce yourselves to Jessica Palmer and her daughter, Vanessa. They obeyed the gospel on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Thank you cards

(Card are on the bulletin board)
 Annette Phillip, Ruby Lewis and children

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

The coordinator of the Latin American Missions group, **Spencer Broome**, who coordinated all our mission trips, passed away last Thursday Sept.10th. Please keep his wife and family in your prayers.

LADIES' CLASS

Ladies' Bible study

All ladies are invited

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 7pm

Join us in person or online. The Live stream will be through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class. If you are not already a member, please request to join the group.



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Ian E./Rick K.
 Devo Tucker Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Sunday, September 20, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"Once Saved, Always Saved"
 2 Peter 1:1-11

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty'
"Those Who Have Turned the World Upside Down Have Come Here Too"
 Acts 17: 1-9

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Phil Fife
 Song before class/Prayer Johnny Singh
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Potvin
 Lord's Table George Davis
 Closing Prayer Josh Estridge

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
 Lord's Table George Davis
 Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Brian Kenyon
 Devo Bobby Sheumaker
 Closing Prayer Gavin Williams

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, please let the office know.
 - Elders -

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Aug 30 | (Building Fund) | \$7,525.00 |
| Sept 6 | | \$7,243.00 |
| Sept. 13 | | \$8,282.00 |
| Contribution Average | | \$7,163.82 |

We may not want to admit it, but we all fear something:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| the dark | getting old | getting sick | being robbed |
| being homeless | dying alone | something happening to our children | |

Fear is the byproduct of life we just cannot avoid. Some try to cope by using remedies like alcohol and drugs, but the Bible, the Word of God, is the best source of comfort one can have in troubled times. The Israelites wandered for 40 years, often fearing to survive with very little. Jesus' disciples faced the fear of persecution and sometimes succumbed to it. Never forget the power of the Lord (Matthew 8:25-27). Take your fears to the Lord. Take time to read the Bible, Psalm 34:4 says, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears..." Those without the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives would certainly have reason to fear, and yes, if we do not obey His commandments, we should also fear the Lord. Psalm 33:8 reads, "Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." What do you fear? Just remember to take it to the Lord. Never forget the Lord is always in charge.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Churches of Christ* Romans 16:16
- The household of God* 1 Timothy 3:15
- The kingdom of God's Son* Colossians 1:13
- The church of God* 1 Corinthians 1:2
- The church of the firstborn ones*
Hebrews 12:23
- Holy nation* 1 Peter 2:9
- Israel of God* Galatians 6:16
- Kingdom of God* Acts 8:12
- Temple of God* Ephesians 2:21
- The New Jerusalem* Revelation 21:2

Faithful Sayings

- Jesus came into the world to save sinners
1 Timothy 1:15
- Godliness is profitable in this life and the
life to come
1 Timothy 4:8-9
- If we have died with Jesus, we will live with him
2 Timothy 2:11
- We are justified by grace and heirs according
to the hope of eternal life
Titus 3:7-8
- Jesus will make all things new
Revelation 21:5
- Jesus will rescue his people and reign forever
Revelation 22:1-6

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Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



"FOR GOD HAS NOT DESTINED US FOR WRATH, BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST"
1 THESSALONIANS 5:9

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