



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

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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.....6:30 p.m.

WEB PAGE

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Getting To Know Jesus: “The Christ”

Steven Ford

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1). In the first verse of the first book of the New Testament, one encounters the name, Jesus Christ. What are we to understand about that designation? Is “Christ” His last name? It is fairly certain that those reading this article have a first and last name. In our current culture, it is common to have both and be identified thereby. In the times in which Jesus lived, most people were identified by first name followed by location (Simon a Cyrenian, Mark 15:21) or first name followed by the name of one’s father (Simon Bar-jona, Matthew 16:17). Jesus was addressed in both ways at various times (Matthew 26:71; John 6:42). The term Christ is in fact not a last name, but something far more significant. It is a title that identifies our Lord with His divine purpose.

Prophetic Significance

In the Old Testament, reference is made to the Messiah, or Anointed, one of God. This is one that would have oil poured over his head identifying his as God’s chosen. The only offices that garnered the special treatment of being anointed were prophets (1 Kings 19:16), priests (Exodus 28:41), and kings (1 Samuel 16:13). There are a host of other passages that allude to this One that would be specially chosen to be God’s Messiah. Through these and various other Old Testament passages, Israel came to anticipate one that would come to lead and rule over them in God’s Kingdom (Daniel 9:24-27). Over the centuries, they waited for the arrival of this One. At God’s chosen time, He appeared to the world to fulfill all that had been written of Him.

Christ Revealed

In order for the world to be able to recognize that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah, He would have to fulfill the inspired prophecies. In the long ago, the prophet Isaiah wrote, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the *spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him*, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:1-2, emphasis added, SWF). This would be fulfilled centuries after Isaiah wrote his prophecy when John the Baptizer baptized Jesus. “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he

but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, *I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him*" (John 1:29-32, emphasis added, SWF). Recognizing the weight of John calling Jesus the lamb of God and the Holy Spirit's confirmation, Andrew clearly understood what was going on. "One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (John 1:40-41). This passage demonstrates at least two things. First, it shows that "Christ" and "Messiah" are synonymous. They both mean, anointed one in their respective languages (Greek and Hebrew). Second, it proves that Jesus was that anointed One that was to come and lead Israel. He was the Christ of God.

The Christ Recognized

On multiple occasions, our Lord was recognized as the Christ of God. With each occasion, details of Jesus' identity and ministry were revealed. Once when Jesus was with His disciples, He inquired as to the public's perception of Him. They noted him to be a powerful prophet and thought him to be John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah. Yet, He was no ordinary prophet. He was the anointed prophet of God as acknowledged by Peter. "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). One another occasion, Jesus healed Peter's mother from a severe fever and many others from their ailments in Capernaum. His power over sickness and unclean spirits served to identify Him as the Christ of God. "Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, *Thou art Christ the Son of God*. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: *for they knew that he was Christ*" (Luke 4:40-41, emphasis added, SWF). In a third account, Jesus had just finished feeding a multitude of weary followers when He confronted the audience with doctrine that challenged them. The hearers rejected the teaching and chose to follow Jesus no more. As such, they were refusing to accept the eternal life that was being offered (John 6:60-65). Once again, it was Peter who made a profound declaration. "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that *thou art that Christ*, the Son of the living God" (John 6:67-69, emphasis added, SWF).

To be the Christ meant that Jesus was anointed by God to be a divine prophet, priest, and king. Yet there was another reality to being the Christ. Jesus would also be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. John alluded to that fact when he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). The method of atoning for sin would come by offering Himself as a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). To be the Christ not only meant glory and honor, but it also meant shame and sacrifice. Matthew records Jesus' sobering reasoning as to what it meant to be the Christ. Immediately following Peter's acknowledgement, we read these words, "Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that *he was Jesus the Christ*. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (Matthew 16:20-21, emphasis added, SWF).

Final Thought

The Scriptures are clear in demonstrating that Jesus is the anointed One of God (John 1). As such, His suffering and sacrifice were essential (Luke 24:26). Not only so, but He provides words of eternal life, salvation from sin, and demonstrates power over sin and evil (John 6). He is worthy of all glory and honor (Hebrews 13:21). He is the Christ!

Area Gospel Meetings

October 13-16

-- Eagle Lake church of Christ
with Thomas Wise

"Can You Imagine?"

-- Central church of Christ
(Clearwater) with Paul Pryor

"Understanding Biblical
Types and Shadows"

Nov. 17-20 Save the Date

Stephen Atnip @ SFA

PRAYER LIST

Current: Rachel Zapata is very sick and is at home
Continual: Jim Turner (cancer) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health & travels).
Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, Bettye Bolding, Nellie Anderson, Cheryl Barker

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!
[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)

?
Steven Ford had invited us to submit Bible questions to be answered during a Sunday evening Q&A sermon. Please send questions to him or place them in the box in front of the auditorium.
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PRAYERS

Our hearts rejoice that **Mickey and Denise Phillips** came forward last Wednesday asking for prayers and to be restored as members here at SFA!

Also, **Lacey Parrish** repented of sins and asked for encouragement and forgiveness. Please pray for her as well!

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY: *Synthia Williamson*, Carlisa Ford's mother, has recently moved here and has placed membership here with us at SFA. Let us welcome her to our family and make her feel right at home! Welcome *Synthia*

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

Sign up in the foyer for this great opportunity to get acquainted with each other while enjoying some food and fellowship!
 See Becky Sheumaker with any questions !

The memorial service for **Annette Phillip** will be **September 21, 2024**
 SFA will be providing a meal for the family after the service. Please contact **Bea Pratt** if you can help with that.
 The visitation will be at **1:00 pm**
 Service will begin at **2:00 pm**

".... Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes" say the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Revelation 14:13

Scheduled to Serve in Sept.	
Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024	
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Jared Spivey
Sunday, September 22, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Becoming All Things"	
6:00 pm Sermon	Josh Potvin
"Paul: Everything to Lose, Everything to Gain"	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Estridge's
Song/Pray before class	Matt Willcut
Announcements (both)	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader (both)	Khalil Pope
Prayer / Bible reading	Jeff Stewart
Lord's Table (both)	Josh Epperson
Closing Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Open/Close Building	Bobby Sheumaker
Attendance Cards	-
Sound Booth (both)	Jason
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Fifes
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader	Khalil Pope
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer	Mike Van Allen
Wednesday, September 25, 2024	
Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Peyton Willcut
How We Are Giving	
Sept. 1	\$12,255.21
Sept. 8	\$5,680.00
Sept. 11	\$7,200.00
Contribution Average	\$6,904.94
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!</p>	

Asleep on a Pillow

Mark 4:38 "But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Does sleep come easy for us? Do we toss and turn at night when the cares of this world weigh us down? In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples were on a boat when a great windstorm caused water to start filling up the boat. They got worried and afraid. So they went to Jesus, who was asleep on a pillow, and asked Him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" What about us, do we ask the Lord the same question today?

The disciples were fearful and seemed to have forgotten who was in their midst. Jesus woke up and said to the sea, "Peace, be still."

When life storms arise in our lives, let us remember who is in our midst. If we get fearful, nervous or worried; let us remind ourselves that we have a God who is omnipresent and omniscient. God isn't asleep on a pillow. He cares about us and will either calm the storms around us, or be our protector as we ride through the storms.

2024 Orange St Church of Christ Ladies' Day



STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Improving your faith and courage to become a living sacrifice for Christ.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
9:00AM-12:00PM

Speaker: *Erin Allan*
310 Orange Street Auburndale, FL
863-967-1757

Registration begins at 8:30am
Lunch to follow


Don't forget to say a prayer for the teachers and students at Dixieland Elementary School and if you committed to writing cards of encouragement to the teachers, your second card needs to be given to Jessica by the 25th!



Men's Breakfast hosted by SFA

Sat. Sept 21, 2024
@ 9:00 AM

Location:
Fred's Market
2120 Harden Blvd
Lakeland, Fl



www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com
Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.

South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Return Service Requested

"The Lord reigns; Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad"
Psalm 97:1 (ESV)



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