



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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Rick Kenyon
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Vince Daugherty

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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

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD

Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill Russia
Don Iverson India
Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Government Overreach

Vince Daugherty

In this past Sunday Bible class, guest speaker Joe Wells mentioned three God-ordained institutions: the home, the church, and government. Joe's lesson focused more on the home and the church, and how they have different domains of responsibility. He mentioned how all three institutions have a particular jurisdiction. Jurisdiction is defined as, the power to make decisions or the extent of authority to make decisions. While a husband and a father has the God-given authority to be the head of his home and make decisions, there is a domain beyond his authority. That head of the home does not have the authority to march up to the president of the United States and demand we invade a foreign country. He does not have the right to march into an elders meeting at his local church and demand access to the church treasury to do as he sees fit. Those scenarios are absurd because a father and husband does not have jurisdiction to make decisions for the government or the church.

While Joe's lesson focused on the church and the home working in their proper domains, I want to focus on the proper domain of the government. We live in turbulent times. The current climate of government is one of overreach, in our country and many others the world over. Government is a God-ordained institution (Rom. 13), but its power and authority is been delegated by the One with all power and authority (Matt. 28:19). When government goes beyond its intended jurisdiction it disrupts the other institutions like the home and the church.

#1 Arbiter of truth

In the past few months, our country's government Department of Homeland Security launched a "Disinformation Governance Board" to combat misinformation. From its inception, it was ridiculed and mocked for its blatant bias and hubris. When a government agency positions itself as the arbiter of truth, it would have to claim it was all-knowing. Further what would become of the agency if something was labeled as "misinformation" but later it was found out that, that something was in fact true information? Truth cannot be arbitrarily doled out by any one man (or a government agency). That is why I am thankful we have a right to the freedom of speech, which in turn means freedom of thought. What if a government agency labeled the Bible as "misinformation" and censored anyone who used it for their standard of truth? When the Truth was standing before Pilate, he thought he could arbitrarily decide on matters of truth. Jesus said it is only by knowing the truth can one be free (John 8:31). Government, subject to human errors ought to seek truth, but it cannot be the arbiters of truth, that domain belongs to God. "Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

#2 Corruption of Marriage

The oldest institution of the three is the home. The first part of creation that God determined was not good was that man was alone. So God created woman as a helper. Together they were perfect for each other. And, "There God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matt. 19:6). Government, the church, and the home can work in harmony on the issue of marriage, but it cannot overrule in places beyond its authority. Jesus's conclusion on marriage is that it ought to be one man and one woman for life. The government has

allowed for easy or “no-fault” divorce to devastate the home. A recent Pew research study concluded that the United States has the highest rate of single-parent homes in the world. Further, the government has decided that it can be the de facto husband through government programs and incentives. Government programs incentivize fathers and husbands to abdicate their God-given role, and wives and mothers to be less careful about their partners. When God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, He created woman. Man and woman compliment each other. Within the last few years, the government has decided it can make fundamental changes to the definition of marriage to include homosexual relationships as well. This is just as absurd for me to try to call the president of the United States and tell him to invade a foreign country. Marriage is defined by God. So for government to rule in cases such as same-sex marriage goes beyond its defined jurisdiction.

#3 Sexual Education

As an arm of the government, public schools have left their domain and teach on topics of sexuality. It used to be that the school’s responsibility was to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic, but it seems there are major changes in schools’ curricula. Children in some instances have been assigned sexually explicit and perverse readings that even school board members will not allow to be read at meetings. Teachers who feel the need to teach children about alternative pronouns. There have been instances of field trips to drag queen shows. Counselors who affirm transgenderism to students will help to hide or encourage students to hide their transitions to parents. Some states have attempted to put laws in place to prevent the sexualization of students at younger ages. Some brave parents have stood up against the sexualization of their kids. Jesus said of those who would corrupt young people, “it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 18:6).

Conclusion

When we see these clear instances of government leaving their proper domain and jurisdiction we must stand up for what is right. Prophets in the old testament were sent to rebuke kings, John the Baptist and Jesus were outspoken against government corruption. If God ordained government, it also has a proper function. One perspective we may need to consider is that when the government overreaches its proper domain is that it is exposing a deficiency in the domain it is encroaching upon. As Christians must do a better job of defending truth, marriage, and the home. When we fail to properly uphold truth, marriage, and the home, we seed the ground to other institutions. Christians must be the city on a hill that others can look to. Christians must set the standard and example by which marriages reflect Christ's love for the church. Christians must be the ones seeking truth. Christians must be the ones protecting and disciplining children to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.



Join us for
LADIES DAY

Finding Contentment in the Chaos
Saturday October 1st
9:00 A.M.

*lunch will be provided, please register ahead of
time by calling the office at
(863) 682-4702*



**LAST SWIM OF
THE SUMMER**

Saturday, October 1st

Brian & Jagie's house

2:00-5:00 P.M.

**Divided swim time
for boys & girls**

Service project

Dinner will be provided

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery
 Brenda Mask - health
 Bitsy Thomas - injury
 Kathy Nester- surgery recovery

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Bill Long - cancer treatments
 Geny Johnson - health
 Sharon Mathis-Washington- back pains
 Sophia Smith- in TICU @ LRMC

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

There will be a potluck wedding shower for Josh & Daniela Cantrell this Sunday, Sept. 25th after evening worship. They are registered on Amazon, and we will be collecting money for a money tree as well. Please give your money to one of the elders' wives by Sept. 23rd.



Scrapbooking Ladies Night

Thursday, September 22
 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. See Jagie for details.

Pray for Sophia

Please be in prayer for Sophia Smith and her family, as she was in a terrible automobile accident on

- Saturday, September 17th. If you would like to help:
- Funds can be sent, and earmarked "Sophia", to the office. The Shepherds will make sure that all of the funds make it to the Smith family.
 - You can make a freezer meal and bring it up to the fellowship hall and let Jessica Anderson or Stephanie Kenyon know.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

SEPTEMBER

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer George Davis

Sunday, September 25, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Christian's Joy... Josh Cantrell
Romans 15:13-15

6:00 P.M.

In You Do I Take Refuge... Josh Cantrell
Psalms 7:17

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Frank Hamby
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Potvin
 Lord's Table Tucker Sweeney
 Closing Prayer George Davis
 Open/Close bldg (both) David Anderson
 Greeters Sweeney
 Attendance cards (both) Caelen/ Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Lord's Table Tucker Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
 Greeters D. & N. Williams

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer..... Stacey Paulin
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

Upcoming Events

September

- 22 - Ladies' night out
- 23 - Fiesta Friday
- 24 - Ladies' day- Orange St
- 25 - Cantrell Wedding Shower potluck
- 27 - Her Voice in Darkness Town Hall Meeting
- 30 - Orange St. Sing

October

- 1 - SFA Ladies' Day
- 1 - Youth swim @ B.Kenyon
- 2 - Fellowship in Svc.
- 21 - Fiesta Friday
- 27 - Ladies' Night Out
- 30 - Trunk or Treat



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 4 \$8,831.00
 Sep 11 \$4,375.00
 Sep 18 \$5,357.80
 Contribution Average..... \$6,187.93
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

What if every Christian assembled with the saints as often as you do—would the pews be packed or empty on Sundays and Wednesdays? (Hebrews 10:24-25; Psalm 122:1)

What if every Christian gave as often as you do—would the church/mission work be supported, would they be a cheerful giver, would they give as often as God commanded? (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

What if every Christian sang like you—would the building be filled with a joyful noise? Would others be encouraged to sing as well? (Colossians 3:16; Psalm 95:1; Psalm 100:1-2)

What if every Christian took the Lord's supper as often as you do—would they commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord every week? (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

What if every Christian loved and cared for others the way you do—would the lost learn the gospel? Would the erring Christian be encouraged to repent? Would the sick know the church cares? Would the grieved be comforted? (John 13:34-35; James 1:22-27; James 5:19-20)

Let us strive each day to be more like Christ. Study His word and live accordingly. (Ephesians 2:10; John 13:14-16; 1 Peter 2:21)

Verses of Comfort

The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.
Zepheniah 3:17

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
And attend to the voice of my supplications.
In the day of my trouble I will call upon You,
For You will answer me.
Psalm 86: 6-7

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!
Laud Him, all you peoples!
For His merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the Lord endures forever.
Psalm 117

Who Are You Friends With?

It is easy to make friends with people who are similar to you, are friends with other friends of yours, and live similar lives as you. What makes it harder is when there are not a lot of similarities. In Jewish society, nobody really liked tax collectors, especially rich tax collectors. Most people thought they got rich by cheating people out of their money. Sometimes people will dislike another person just because their parents have a certain job or maybe even because they are rich or poor. One time Jesus met a man, a short man named Zaccheus. Most people hated him because he was a tax collector and rich. But Jesus did not mind, He went to hang out with Zaccheus at his house. Some people made fun of Jesus for spending time with a guy like Zaccheus. Jesus said He came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Jesus did not play favorites and neither should we. It may be difficult but as much as you can help it. We need to be loving and caring towards everyone we meet, no matter if they are rich or poor, or have lots of friends or not many friends at all.

- Vince

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

*And the LORD, He is the
One who goes before you. He
will be with you, He will not
leave you nor forsake you.
He will not desert you or
abandon you; do not fear or
be dismayed.*

Deuteronomy 31:8



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