



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 39 September 26, 2023

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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.

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Bodily Resurrection

Brian R. Kenyon

Given the brevity of life on earth, there is much comfort in knowing about the immortality of the spirit/soul and the bodily resurrection for those who are faithful Christians. We are acquainted with life by living it, but the only personal acquaintance we have with death is by the association we have with others who have died. We have no direct personal experience with the bodily resurrection. The concept of the resurrection has been a subject of controversy for some over the years. Jesus taught it (Mt. 22:30-32), but many Jews of the first century disbelieved it (Acts 23:8). Even some Christians in the church at Corinth were saying “there is no resurrection of the dead” (1 Cor. 15:12). There are some things we need to know about the bodily resurrection.

God’s Power Can Raise the Dead

It is a great mistake to underestimate the power of God. There are certain things that God cannot do such as lie (Titus 1:2) or deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13). However, it is wrong to deny, without rational basis, the power of God to do anything He wills, yet there are those who deny the resurrection as though there were some compelling reason why it could not be true. Usually, it will be denied because the denier cannot conceive of such a thing. However, our having to understand how God could do something is not a prerequisite for God to do it. While it is true that many things are impossible for humans to do, “with God all things are possible” (Mk. 10:27).

The bodily resurrection entails three things. First, it involves the relationship of a human spirit/soul to a body (1 Co. 15:50-54; 2 Co. 5:1-5). At death, the body and the spirit/soul separate (Jas. 2:26). The body goes back to the dust from which it was created (Gen. 3:19; Eccl. 12:7), and the spirit/soul goes back to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). God holds the spirit/soul in the Hadean realm until judgement day (Lk. 16:19-26 cf. Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 20:13-14). Second, the bodily resurrection involves the fact that the human spirit/soul, sometimes called the “inner man” (Eph. 3:16) or “heart” (Pr. 4:23), is the source of all humanly produced ethical activity. Jesus said, “those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Mt. 15:17-20). Third, since our spirit/soul determines our actions, our spirit/soul is held accountable for what is done in our body. Thus, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

God has the power! For faithful Christians, “our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to

the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Phil. 3:20-21). We will be changed, but our spirit/soul will remain the same. We do not know exactly “how” God will do this, but we know His word, the Bible, teaches it (cf. Rom. 4:19; 10:17; Heb. 11:19).

God Created Humans for Resurrection & Eternity

Before Creation, God had a plan in mind, an “eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph. 3:11). God knew Adam would sin and that all of his accountable descendants would also sin (Ps. 147:5 cf. Rom. 5:12-21). This, of course, does not mean people inherent Adam's sin, but it does mean we inherit some physical consequences of Adam's sin. The sin of Adam and Eve resulted in their, and thus all humanity's, losing access to the “tree of life,” which, as long as they were able to eat, would result in their living forever (Gen. 3:22-24). God created humans to live for ever, but it is not good for them to live forever in a state of sin! The entry of physical death through Adam's sin necessitated a bodily resurrection for salvation purposes (Heb. 9:27 cf. 1 Cor. 5:52-57; 1 Thes. 4:13-18).

Paul affirmed that since there is a physical body, there must be a spiritual body: “The body is sown in corruption, it [the physical body] is raised in incorruption. It [the physical body] is sown in dishonor, it [the physical body] is raised in glory. It [the physical body] is sown in weakness, it [the physical body] is raised in power. It [the physical body] is sown a natural body, it [the physical body] is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:42-44). Paul also said that “the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things” (1 Cor. 2:14-15). Thus, it is possible for a person in this physical body to be spiritually minded. In the resurrected state, a spiritual body suitable to eternity must be provided, whether we were spiritually minded in this life. “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1). Paul here compared the physical body, or “tent [tabernacle, KJV],” to a building. The body can be “destroyed [dissolved, KJV],” but the building of God is eternal. The “tent” is “earthly,” but the building from God is “eternal in the heavens.” In the present human condition, Christians long to be clothed with the heavenly habitation (2 Cor. 5:2). By His grace, God has placed faithful Christians in the position where they can exchange their human body for the heavenly habitation (2 Cor. 5:5).

Obedience Readies Us for a Good Resurrection

Our destiny beyond death is dependent on whether we are justified by God in this life (cf. Rom. 6:23). Because of Christ's deity and complete sinlessness, it was impossible for death to hold Him in the grave (Acts 2:24). Jesus said, “No one takes it [my life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again” (Jn. 10:18). Jesus' resurrection from the dead was the ultimate declaration that He was (and is) the Son of God (Rom. 1:4). By Christ's resurrection, our justification is made possible (Rom. 4:25). Paul declared the connection between a person's baptism into Christ and the benefits of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-11). Christians are to consider themselves dead to sin, but alive unto God, “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through ... God, who raised Him from the dead” (Col. 2:12). The righteousness that is of faith can only come by obedience to the gospel (Rom. 10:9-10; 2 Cor. 13:4). Then and only then are we ready for the bodily resurrection (cf. Col. 3:1-3)!

Conclusion

The bodily resurrection is fundamental (cf. Heb. 6:1-2). God has the power to resurrect human bodies. We have been created with a view toward the resurrection. We are only ready for the resurrection if, in this life, we make proper provisions through obedience to God (Heb. 5:9). All people, Christians and non-Christians, will be raised from the dead, but it is up to each individual to be ready for that time when “all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (Jn. 5:28-29). Are we ready?

**Welcome Aaron Pope,
his wife, Wendy,
and their 6 children
to SFA church of
Christ! Aaron will be
preaching Sunday.
Plan to be here!**

PRAYER LIST

Current Rachel Zapata is sick at home,
Continual: Wayne Shearer (heath); 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), Beverly Adams (health), Melissa Craft (health) Charles Paulin (health)

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

Kathy Nester had surgery on both ankles this past Tuesday. She will remain in the hospital for several more days in room C5216, please continue to pray for her.

Gospel Meeting

Central Church of Christ, Clearwater

October 1-5

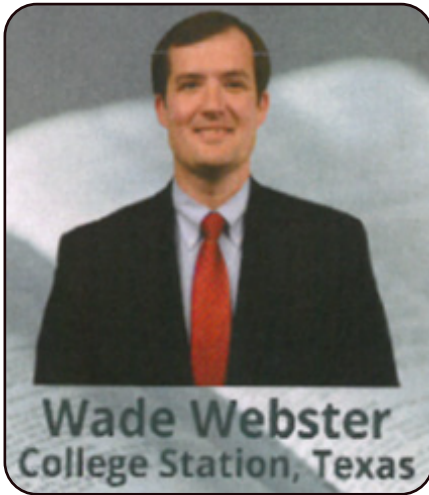
"Tell Us Plainly"

**Sunday: 9:30 am; 10:30 am
5:00 pm**

Monday -- Thursday: 7:00 pm

"That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:5).

**1454 Belleair Road
Clearwater, FL 33756**



Join Us for Bible Classes!

Cradle Roll (behind tech booth) **Upper Elementary** (Room 17)

Sundays: Nikki (Bible basics) Sundays: Kathy (EHT)
 Wednesdays: Jagie (Bible basics) Wednesdays: Marion (EHT)

2-3 Year-Old (Room 18) **Teenage** (Room 19)

Sundays: Marissa (EHT) Sundays: David A. (EHT)
 Wednesdays: Becky (EHT) Wednesdays: Vince (Romans)

Lower Elementary (Room 7) **Adult** (Auditorium)

Sundays: Anna Clair (EHT) Sundays: SFA men (Prophecies of Christ)
 Wednesdays: Olivia (EHT) Wednesday: Brian (Revelation)

First Principles Class (Fellowship Room, any aged adults)

Wednesdays: Rick

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Designated Elder.....Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Announcements.....Rick Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer.....Brian Kenyon
 Devotional.....Jeff Stewart
 Prayer.....Wadi Khoury

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon..... Aaron Pope
 What God Wants From Our Worship

6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Aaron Pope
 What Mask Are You Wearing?

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Kyle Bingle
 Song Leader (both services).....Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements (both).....Jimmy Sweeney
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Josh Potvin
 Lord's Table (both).....George Beals
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart
 Open/Close bldg (both).....David Anderson
 Greeters.....Sweeneys
 Attendance cards (both).....Ellis /Klark
 Sound Booth (both).....Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer.....David Anderson
 Greeters PM..... Williams

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Announcements.....Rick Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer.....Brian Kenyon
 Devotional.....Landon Willcut
 Prayer.....Wadi Khoury

Upcoming Events 2023

September

29 Singing Night at Orange Street 7:00 PM
 30 Bonfire at the Daugherty's

October

3 Senior Saints meeting at 10:00 am
 8 Elders/Deacons/Preacher meeting
 21 Men's breakfast Orange St church of Christ

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 10.....	\$8,067.10
Sep 17	\$5,934.50
Sep 24	\$5,444.50
Contribution Average.....	\$6,991.34
Weekly budget.....	\$7,410.00

When I Say "I am a Christian ..."

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not shouting "I am saved."
I'm whispering "I was lost,"
That's why I chose this way

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Him as my Guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not trying to be strong,
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And can never pay the debt.

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I still feel heartache and pain.
I have my share of troubles-
That's why I seek His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I don't claim to perfect be.
My flaws are far too many-
But God sees worth in me.

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
It's not to stand and judge-
It's to pray that you will know Him
And be loved as I am loved.

Author Unknown

Youth Section

Vince Daugherty

Christian Apologetics Change of James

Have you ever told your brothers or sisters something but they did not believe it? Jesus experienced the same thing. In Mark 3:31-35, His family members were waiting outside asking Him to come home indicating they thought he was crazy. John 7:5 says, "For even His brothers did not believe in Him." However, after Jesus was raised from the dead, His family was numbered with the first believers (Acts 1:14). Later, James becomes a pillar in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15). And, in humility, James writes a letter that begins this way, "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (James 1:1). He did not state he was Christ's brother in the flesh, but His servant! How do you account for the change that happened in James' life? Some will try to deny that Jesus could have been raised from the dead, but I Corinthians 15:7 says Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection. How can someone explain the change in James' life without his belief that he had seen Jesus raised from the dead? He went from staunch denier to a prominent figure in the first church at Jerusalem.



a sweet little pumpkin is on the way
please help us honor

CHARLENE SMITH

with a sprinkling for baby girl Smith due to arrive November 3rd.
Please place any cards and/or gifts on the designated table at the end of the foyer hall. Thank you!

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
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"Let your light shine before men, that
they may see your good deeds and praise
your Father in heaven.."**

Matthew 5:16



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