



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 39 September 29, 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

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

HOME OF

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.

Learning to Appreciate Leviticus

Hiram Kemp

There are certain portions of scripture that are avoided by Bible students. Certain books that are not read as much as other books. It makes sense that New Testament Christians would spend more time with the New Testament than with the Old Testament. After all, we live under the New Testament and will be judged by the words found within its pages (John 12:48). The New Testament is a better covenant, more glorious, and established upon better promises (2 Corinthians 3:6-18; Heb. 8:6-13). Most Christians understand that there is still a great benefit to be derived from the Old Testament (Rom. 15:4). We can learn from the failings of our spiritual forefathers as well as from their examples of faithfulness (cf. 1 Cor. 10:6, 10:11; Hebrews 11:1-40). However, we must confess that there are certain sections of the Old Testament that we may read a lot less than others. A book like Leviticus may not find itself in our regular reading cycle. We should remember that all scripture is not only inspired but it is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16-17). God has it in His word for a reason, and we would be wise to find out what that reason is. As our reading calendar brings us to the book of Leviticus, I want to highlight several important things about this book and help us all gain a better appreciation for its contents.

The Outline and Structure of the Book

Many stay away from the Book of Leviticus because they mistakenly believe that it is a book filled with weird dietary laws and other ceremonial things that are foreign to us as modern readers. While Leviticus does contain dietary laws and other ceremonial cleansing directions, these things are not the sum of this book's subjects. Allow me to offer a basic outline of the book and what readers can expect to find as they plunder through its pages. In Leviticus 1-7, one reads of the five basic sacrifices through which an Israelite would approach God. These sacrifices include burnt offering (Lev. 1), grain offering (Lev. 2), peace offering (Lev. 3), sin offering (Lev. 4), and guilt offering (Lev. 5). Leviticus 6-7 are summaries of each of the five offerings. An interesting note that I was unaware of for many years is that only two of these offerings deal with sin: the sin offering and the guilt offering. The others are offerings to show devotion to God, thanksgiving, or emphasizing fellowship with the Lord.

Leviticus 8-10 deals with the role of the priest, the work of the Lord assigned to them, as well as their consecration as special servants. Leviticus 11-15 addresses purity in various avenues of life: pure food, pure bodies, and pure houses. Israel is shown in this section how to maintain or restore purity once it is lost. Leviticus 16 is perhaps the most important chapter in the entire Old Testament as it details the events of the Day of Atonement (also known as Yom Kippur) when the high priest would enter the holy of holies and offer sacrifice for himself and the entire nation one day each year. This chapter should be read and studied by all Christians as it shows us what Jesus did for us on a much grander scale. Chapter 17 basically sums up the first half of the book.

Major Themes of Importance

One of my Old Testament professors said once, "Leviticus was probably the most important book in the Old Testament for Israel". Though his commentary on this subject is uninspired and subject to critique he may be correct. Many of the important themes of the Old Testament are discussed and explained in this book. It is from this book that an Old Testament Israelite would learn how to be forgiven of sins (Lev. 4:20, 4:26, 4:31, 4:35, 5:10, 5:13, 5:16, etc.). While ultimate forgiveness would take place based on what Jesus did on the cross there was "temporary" forgiveness foreshadowed in the Old Testament (cf. Heb. 10:4).

Leviticus teaches one the importance of authorized worship. The scene with Nadab and Abihu may be the most famous scene from Leviticus and for good reason. These two priests offered up strange (KJV) or unauthorized (ESV) fire which the Lord did not command them, and they were killed (Lev. 10:1-2). This book taught Israel that God is serious about worship. The need to be holy is stressed throughout the book as the Israelites were taught that God is holy and requires the same from His people (Lev. 11:44, 11:45, 19:2, 20:7, 20:26, 21:6). The importance of worship and devotion to God is expressed in this book. Many of the offerings prescribed in this book were not "required" but one could offer them to God if he or she wanted to express thanks to Him. Also, there is the command for the Israelites to be present for the three major feasts in Israel, forsaking the assembly was not an option (cf. Heb. 10:24-25). The theme of obedience being blessed, and disobedience being cursed by God is an elementary principle that we find in Leviticus but one that needs

to be repeated to each generation. Leviticus is more than just strange food laws and rules about leprosy. It is in some ways an inspired manual for Old Testament worship. The better handle we have on it, the more we will understand what was required of the Israelites. It will also give us wisdom concerning how we should approach God today as well (cf. Mal. 3:6).

Why Christians Must Read & Study Leviticus

The first and obvious reason we as Christians must read and study this book is that it is in the Bible. That's reason enough. God put it there for our benefit, and we live by every word that comes from His mouth, not just the words we like (Matt. 4:4). However, reading the Book of Leviticus also helps us understand Jesus more. When we read of Him observing the Old Testament Jewish feast days in the gospels, we learn He was a faithful Jew who obeyed the law perfectly (Matt. 26:17-19; John 2:23, 7:10). Likewise, when He cleanses the lepers, we learn that He was doing what could not be done under the Old Law (Matt. 8:1-4). When we read of the command to be holy as God is holy, we should appreciate that Peter borrows this language from Leviticus (1 Pet. 1:15-16; cf. Lev. 11:44). The Book of Leviticus will enrich our reading of the Book of Hebrews as the Book of Hebrews speaks of all of the Old Testament sacrifices being surpassed in glory by the "once for all" sacrifice of Jesus (Heb. 7:25-28, 10:14). I confess that the Book of Leviticus is hard to read in some places. We could all read and study it more to our profit. As we read this book, may our knowledge and appreciation of Jesus' sacrifice increase (2 Cor. 9:15)!

Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

God's Instructions for Walls to Tumble

When the Children of Israel crossed the Jordan, with God's help, Israel came to the walled city of Jericho. The Canaanites were shut up tight and trusted in their defenses. If Israel was going to capture the city, it would take a miracle. God's instructions were to march around the city. God did not advise them to make ladders to climb over or dig tunnels under, or rams and catapults to fight their way in, but God told them to march around the city. The Israelites were to march around one time a day for 6 days and on the 7th day they were to march around 7 times and shout. When they had completed 13 marches around the walls they collapsed. With the defenses down, the Israelites captured the city. They did it by following God's commands. I wonder if any of the people thought God's plan was silly or His instructions were not helpful. But because they followed God's commands, the walls came tumbling down, and they took the city. It should be a lesson for us. Jesus says if you love Him, you will keep His commandments. Sometimes it may seem strange or different from the way other people do things, but we, like the Israelites, need to trust God's plan and do our part in following His lead. It led to the Israelites' success, and it will lead to ours as well.

Senior Saints by John McShane

Most of us mature citizens, I hate the word elderly, are sitting around worried about going to places we love to go to and getting sick and tired of all the negative news that confronts us on and in the various media outlets. We spent most of our life trying to make a better world for those around us and it seems others are now trying to destroy what we worked so hard for. Feelings of sadness and hopelessness are taking over our lives. It is time to get rid of those feelings and do something positive TODAY. In the King James Version of the Bible the text reads: "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you: do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*" I would amend this today by adding "and be the first to do it". Make a phone call to another that is stuck at home, write a cheery letter, let people know that you appreciate them. Check with your neighbors and see if they need help in this troublesome time. Get out and walk and keep your health up. Be a friend to all that you come in contact with. Bake some cookies for a friend. Turn off the news programs and instead watch some old enjoyable movies. Remember all the good things that you did before all these troubles came about and do them again in a new way. And remember "*lo, I am with you always*" and "*pray without ceasing*"

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Frank Hamby
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt
 Darlene Thompson
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Ciera Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Brian Smith
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Ellen Shearer
 Jim Turner
 Annette Phillip
 Sophia Smith

Ron & Judy Ford
 Stacey Wilson
 Ray Nashick
 Bob Pratt
 Geny Johnson
 Margaret Coone
 George Davis
 Melody Baxter

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

PRAYER LIST

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Margaret Norman
 Carol Eason Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sophia Smith was brought to the hospital for a possible kidney stone. She is now home recovering.

Stacey Wilson is currently in Lakeland Regional after suffering a sunstroke.



MONDAY, NOV. 16

6:30 PM: Let's Get Motivated
 7:30 PM: Let's Stay with the Message

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

11:30 AM: Why Some Don't Obey the Gospel
 12:30 AM: What About My Family
 6:30 PM: Let's Talk About the Manner
 7:30 PM: Let's Apply The Model

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

11:30 AM: What about my Baptism
 12:30 AM: What About Instrumental Music
 6:30 PM: Let's Make the Application

7:30 PM: Lesson 1: Back to the Authority of the Bible

THURSDAY, NOV. 19

6:30 PM: Lesson 2: Back to the Church of the Bible
 7:30 PM: Lesson 3: Back to the Salvation of the Bible

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Bobby Sheumaker
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Sunday, October 4, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 Taming the Tongue
James 3:1-12

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 Paul's Message to the Ephesians
Acts 20:17-38

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Jimmy Sweeney
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Allen Grimes
 Lord's Table Nigel St. Bernard
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Matthew Webb
 Scripture reading/Prayer Gavin Williams
 Lord's Table Edward Atkins
 Closing Prayer Zach Jones

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Johnny Singh
 Devo Edward Atkins
 Closing Prayer Eric Bowman

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 ~

Sept. 13	\$8,282.00
Sept. 20	\$5,927.66
Sept. 27	\$5,775.00
Contribution Average	\$7,096.51

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign-up or contact the office by October 18, so we can know how much material to have available.



South Florida Ave. church of Christ

Annual Ladies Day

October 3, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Speakers: Marissa Estridge & Jessica Anderson

EVENT WILL BE LIVE STREAMED FOR THE LADIES WATCHING ONLINE

WALKING IN SCRIPTURE

Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:24)

Christians are to walk in wisdom (Colossians 4:5)

Christians must have a worthy walk
(Ephesians 4:1)

God's children are to walk in love (Ephesians 5:2)

Walking in darkness ruins fellowship with God
(1 John 1:5-6)

Walking in the light keeps us cleansed
(1 John 1:7)

Lessons from Leviticus

*There must be an offering for sin
(Lev. 1-5)*

Worship matters (Lev. 10:1-2)

*We should be holy like God
(Lev. 11:44, 19:2, 20:7)*

*Atonement is available
(Lev. 16)*

*We should love our neighbors as
ourselves
(Lev. 19:18)*

*Obedience is blessed
(Lev. 26:1-13)*

*Disobedience is punished
(Lev. 26:14-46)*

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



"BE HOLY;
FOR I AM HOLY"

LEVITICUS 11:44

South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested