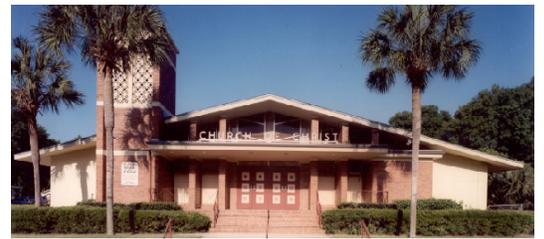




SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 40 October 5, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

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

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.

THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM

JOB 23:10 (PT. 1)

Joshua Cantrell

The subject of Job is a huge undertaking. The book is filled with encouragement and discusses many issues in this life. Who is God? Does He care about humanity? Is God worth serving, even if He does not bless man? Will a man remain faithful if he believes God has moved against him? Why do humans suffer; is it because they sin? Or are there other explanations for human suffering? Does God owe man an explanation for His actions? Does Satan know our thoughts and weaknesses? These are some of the major themes addressed in the book. One verse, in particular, stands out to me and is going to be the focus of this article. While lamenting his condition, Job made this insightful comment, *“But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”* (Job 23:10).

A UNDERSTAND OF GOD

God, not Job or Satan, is the central character of this book. The deepest questions and greatest points of contention are about God. When we study the Bible, it is important to remember that we are learning about God, though we read about the lives of many people. Ultimately we are being introduced to the God of heaven. This book, maybe like no other, serves to teach us who God is and what kind of God we serve. Everyone in this book has an opinion about God; unfortunately, most of them are wrong.

SATAN IS WRONG ABOUT GOD.

“Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. (Job 1:9-11)”

Satan accused God of buying Job’s service, which is the background of the book: God, You are not worthy to be praised - You have to buy their service. The discussion between God and Satan occurs before Job suffers the loss of anything. It sets the stage for the events of the book. We learn some very important things about Satan from the book of Job; namely, Satan does not know our weaknesses, and Satan does not know our thoughts. Satan made a declarative statement about Job. He contended that if God took his things, Job would surge God to His face. God allowed Satan to take Job’s things, and Job did not curse God to His face; thus, Satan was wrong.

ELIPHAZ AND HIS FRIENDS WERE WRONG ABOUT GOD (JOB 4:18-20)

Eliphaz and his friends charged God with many things throughout the book. They charged God with having no trust in angels; this is wrong. God sends angels on missions for those who would inherit eternal salvation. He trusts His holy angels (Heb. 1:14). They charged God with not caring about humanity. Eliphaz said men perish forever without any regarding it. This is wholly untrue about God. He does not even take pleasure when the wicked perish (Eze. 18:23). The Psalmist declares, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints”* (Psa. 116:15). God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son (John 3:16). God is good, and His mercy endures forever (Psa. 136). He loved us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:6-8). Eliphaz and his friends could not have been more wrong about God. Thankfully, God corrected Eliphaz, and his friends (Job. 42:7).

JOB WAS WRONG ABOUT GOD

"Then Job arose, and rent his mantle and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped. And said, Naked came I out my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:20-21). It is important to remember that Job did not have the benefit of knowing about the conversation between God and the Devil recorded in chapter one. Therefore, Job's position that God was causing his suffering is his point of reference for all he suffers within the book. Job still regards God very highly; he honors God. However, we should not feel like Job does. We have the benefits of chapter one and the rest of the Bible to shape our view of God.

HOW JOB CAME FORTH AS GOLD?: JOB BELIEVED GOD WAS TRYING HIM

For Job, the events in his life are all attributed to the direct actions of God. He is convinced that for reasons unknown to him, God has moved against him. Job does not simply believe he has gotten some bad breaks or is going through a rough patch. This is not the uneven bounces of life's ball. This is better understood by Solomon's statement that time and chance happen to us all (Ecc. 9:11).

No, Job believes that God has searched for him through the sea of humanity and found him. He believes that the God who gave him all of the nice things he once enjoyed has decided without rhyme or reason to take them back (Job 1:20-21). Not only has the Lord repossessed everything, but He has also taken Job's children, reputation, comfort, sleep, and health. And in what is the worst part of it all

for Job, God has stopped hearing or speaking to him. Still, Job has high regard for and a high view of God.

JOB BELIEVED GOD WOULD LISTEN TO HIM (JOB 23:1-4)

Job believed his punishment was great. Thus his complaint was bitter. The stroke against him was heavy. However, instead of allowing his suffering to turn him away from God, he turned to God. He wanted to know where God was so he could find Him. Because he believed if he could find Him, he would be able to come to His seat. Thus before Him, Job believed that God would invite him into His presence. Unlike Job's friends, Job believed God was approachable.

Yet, Job believed more: he believed that God would listen to him. He states that he would order his cause; he would fill his mouth with arguments. He is not angry with God; this is not a disrespectful child pointing an angry finger in the face of a parent. He would not bark at God and complain about his bad treatment. These are statements about God and His goodness.

Job believes his problem is distance and location, not the character of God. Instead of thinking God is evil, he believes there must be a misunderstanding. Therefore, if he could find Him, God would listen to him and allow him to explain his side. Job believes God loves him; this is further evidenced by what happens next.

Youth Group News

Vince Daugherty

Who is my neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

Who is my neighbor? Is it not anyone and everyone, "red and yellow black and white, they are precious in His sight!" Therefore we ought to love our neighbor (all of humanity) as ourselves. When a man was walking down from Jerusalem, He fell among robbers, who beat him half to death. Who was it that was a good neighbor to him? The one who, when he passed by, showed mercy and kindness to him. The one who did not check first to see if it was someone from his own nation. The one who did not consider how it might inconvenience him. It was the one who saw a man in need, and he decided to help. Jesus calls out the very best in us, to help us to view the world the same way in which God views it. If I ever fell among hard times I would pray that someone would take pity on me. When we consider our ultimate example of what it means to be a good neighbor, we find Jesus, "who for the joy set before Him endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2). Jesus saw humanity's great need and decided to show mercy and kindness to us. I pray that when you and I see the needs of others, we too will show Christ at work in us.

Senior Saints by John McShane

Have you ever wondered about choices that you have made in the past and how it would have affected your life if the other choice were made? I know that I have, and most of you probably have, too. We all have to make choices in life. Starting in the first grade of school, we chose who our best friend would be and what kids we would like to play with. Later as we entered high school, we decided what courses to take that would guide our adult life. As we went through life, what job do I want and what type of woman or man do I want to marry. For those of us not brought up in the church, our choices were probably made based on what our parents had instilled in us. For others, we may have been guided by our peers or close friends. However, we made the choice, and we had to live with the results, good or bad. If the choice ended up bad, then, hopefully, we learned from it and moved on. One of the best choices in life is to put on Christ in baptism. After that, all choices we have here on earth are easy as we have a guidebook that we can follow. The Bible has all that we need to make choices in our daily life. One can start with the ten commandments and go from there. Proverbs 3:5-6 has some very good advice. **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."** Anytime you have a tough choice to make, the Bible can be your guide. A good study Bible makes it easy to find what you are looking for.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Carol Edmonson - loss of Jim
 Bernetta Green - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Kathy Nester - eye surgery
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Flo Duffy - eye problems
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Nigel St. Bernard - traveling

Recent requests:

Tamara Thompson - car accident Melody Baxter - broken leg

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down.

Updates & Prayer requests

Tamara Thompson was in a car accident. She is ok but is sore.
Melody Baxter fell and broke her leg in multiple places. She is in Tampa General.
Jim Turner received a good report on recent tests. He still has another test.

- SFA FAMILY RETREAT -

If your family plans to go on the retreat, payment is due Oct.10.

SENIOR SAINTS OCTOBER MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 19 starting with breakfast at 9:00 am.
 Presentation begins at 10:00 am then blessing bags assembly. Please add your name to the list on the board

Thank you

Dear SFA, I want to thank everyone for the prayers and cards when I had my surgery. They meant so much to me.
 Sincerely, Jeff Pratt

Thank you for visiting

Dawn Sutton Shirley Loudermilk
 Cheryl Melendez Peter & Debbie Hawthorne
 Sue Johnson (Kenyons)
 Gabriela Milan (Chisholms)



PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annette Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Tanner Estridge - health
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery
 Brenda Mask - health
 Darlene Thompson - health

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Johnny Singh
 Devo Joshua Cantrell
 Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Sunday, October 10, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "Turning Your Prison to Your Platform"
 pt. 3

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "Turning Your Prison to Your Platform"
 pt. 4

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Sweeney Greeter Nona Williams
 Song/prayer before class Johnny Singh
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Zack Jones

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Waldon
 P.M. Song Leader Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Scripture reading/Prayer Kyle Bingle
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Matt Webb
 Devo Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Upcoming Events

October

9 - Youth ice skating
 10- Elders meeting, 4pm
 15-16- Family Retreat
 16 - Men's breakfast, 9am
 19 - Senior Saints, 9am
 23 - Sisters reveal, 10am
 26 - FSOP ladies class, 7pm
 31 - Trunk or Treat

November

6 - SFA corn roast
 14-17 Fall gospel mtg
 19 - Youth group
 thankful meal

December

4 - Youth group
 caroling & parties
 18 - Wreaths Across America

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sept 19 \$6,549.00
 Sept 26 \$5,367.90
 Oct 3 \$6,893.00
 Contribution Average \$6,974.83

I was going to work the other morning when I looked up in the sky and saw this beautiful perfect rainbow. The sky was clear of dark clouds, and it had been raining. I couldn't see why there would have been this perfect rainbow. I called Wayne to see if he could see it. He went outside and looked but couldn't. I asked him why since we were looking at the same big sky. He thought it was because of all the trees. That made me think about my life lately and all going on in it. That morning I could see God, and I knew He was there as always. I then thought about all the times I couldn't see Him because of the trees in my life: fear, worry, anger, suffering, and being weary. I know I can't cut the trees down because they will grow back over time, but I do know if I reach out to my Lord, He will take my hand and lead me safely around them. In Matthew 26:38-39, our Christ feared and was sorrowful and prayed to let this cup pass from Him, but we know it did not. He went to the cross for my sins. In Matthew 8:23-26, His disciples were afraid, so am I also of little fearful? I pray not. In 2 Timothy 2:7, God has not given me the spirit of fear but the power of love and sound mind. Luke 10:41 Christ told Martha how worried she was but not to be; she had chosen the good part. Also in Matthew 6:25, we are told by Christ not to worry. We mean so much more to Him. We should just seek Him first. In Luke 19:45, Christ got angry. We are not to let anger control us or make us sin (James 1:20; Ephesians 4:26).

Another tree that I have to deal with is suffering, either through the loss of a loved one or sickness or even as a Christian. Our Lord suffered for us on that cross in the flesh. In 1 Peter 4:1-2, we are to arm ourselves to fight the fight and be of the same mind as Christ, so we can do the will of God. Romans 8:18 says our suffering can't compare with the glory that will be revealed in us. In Titus 1:1-2, Romans 6:24-26, 1 John 2:24-25, and 5:13 all tell about His promise of eternal life which is the most important promise, if we live faithfully to the end. So, ladies, we have to take God's hand and walk around whatever may be our trees that keep us from seeing the glory of God, and possibly missing out on the most important promise ever: "ETERNAL LIFE"

Christ's Church and Salvation

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

invites you to our Fall Gospel Meeting

November 14 - 17, 2021

Save the dates - more details to come

Robby Eversole



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

"TEACH ME TO DO YOUR WILL, FOR YOU ARE MY GOD! LET YOUR GOOD SPIRIT LEAD ME ON LEVEL GROUND!"

Psalm 143:10