



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 40 October 6, 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

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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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.

Short Books With Strong Messages

Hiram Kemp

The Bible is one book but within its pages, there are sixty-six different books. There is a uniting theme that runs throughout the pages of scripture: the salvation of man and the glorification of God. It is interesting to observe the variety that the Holy Spirit chose to include within the canon of scripture. There are books with 150 chapters or divisions like the Psalms. One can read of long prophetic discourses like Isaiah or historical books like Genesis which cover thousands of years. When we turn our attention to the New Testament, we encounter the four inspired biographies of the life of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Next, we read the historical book of Acts followed by the epistles to churches and individuals.

While many of the epistles contain double-digit chapters there are several books of shorter length. We should keep in mind that the length of a book in the Bible says nothing of the book's importance. No book is in the Bible by accident. Every book that we have has been breathed out by God and preserved through His amazing providence (Isa. 40:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). There is only one single chapter book in the Old Testament, the book of Obadiah, but there are four in the New Testament. I want to briefly cover the shortest books in the New Testament and impress upon those of us who read them why they are worthy of our attention and study.

Philemon: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

The Book of Philemon contains just 25 verses. Paul writes this letter to his brother, friend, fellow laborer, and slave owner named Philemon (Philemon 1). When we consider the people Paul mentions in the opening verses of Philemon and compare it with what Paul says elsewhere, it becomes clear the Philemon was a member of the church in Colossae (Col. 4:17; Philemon 2). Paul praises Philemon for the good work he has already done and the righteous reputation he has secured among the saints (Philemon 4-7), then addresses his main reason for writing. Philemon's slave, Onesimus, has run away and comes to Paul, and now Paul is sending him back to Philemon (Philemon 8-12). Onesimus found Paul, was converted to Jesus Christ, and now is a brother and Christ (Philemon 10, 13-16). Paul is petitioning Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother and vows to pay any debt that Onesimus has accrued (Philemon 17-18). He gently reminds Philemon that he owes him his own life for what Paul had previously done for him (Philemon 19).

This short book shows us the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. We have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, and we must learn to be reconciled to each other (2 Cor. 5:18-21). We cannot hold grudges against each other for previous wrongs done; we need to be quick to forgive if we want to receive forgiveness from God (Eph. 4:32). Paul demonstrates for us how we should be peacemakers, not pot-stirrers (Matt. 5:9). This book can be read in minutes but must be meditated on for years. People like Onesimus can change, and people like Philemon must forgive and receive the forgiven. The entire message of the gospel is displayed in this short epistle. There is sin, forgiveness, restoration, reconciliation, and fellowship. Do not skip Philemon in your Bible reading. It is packed with riches for the soul.

2 John & 3 John: False Teachers, Fellowship, and Faithfulness

Besides Paul, John wrote the most books in the New Testament. We are probably more familiar with the Gospel of John, 1 John, and Revelation. However, John is also the author of the two short books bearing his name at the back of our New Testament. The two books combined contain 27 verses (13 in 2 John and 14 in 3 John). Both books place a special emphasis on truth. The word appears five times in 2 John and six times in 3 John. Still, there are differences between the two letters.

2 John is written to the elect lady, some believe this to be an individual, and others believe it is a figurative address to a congregation (2 John 1). I believe the letter written to a congregation designated as the elect lady makes more sense because Christians are often referred to in the New Testament collectively as the elect (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4). John writes this letter to the church to praise them for their faithfulness and walking in the truth (2 John 4-6). The main thrust of the letter however is on the false teachers who John's readers must be aware of (2 John 7). John's readers must not forfeit their reward by cozying up to these deceivers and endorsing their message (2 John 8-11). They were not to receive these false teachers into their homes because this would have signaled approval of their message (cf. Acts 16:15). John had more to say, but he preferred to deliver the rest of his message face to face (2 John 12-13). In just 13 verses, we learn the importance of abiding in the truth (John 15:1-8; 1 Thess. 5:21). We must also be on guard against religious error and not become contaminated by the error of others (Eph. 5:11). Lastly, we can forfeit our souls by choosing to walk in darkness rather than light (1 John 1:5-6).

3 John is a study of personalities. John writes to a faithful Christian named Gaius (3 John 1-2). Gaius is to keep up the good work he has begun. John warns him of a wicked and arrogant man named Diotrephes (3 John 9-10). He concludes by commending Demetrius as a man with a good standing before all men (3 John 12). The main theme taught in 3 John is to follow the good examples and avoid the evil (3 John 11). We should note those who are living like Christ and duplicate their behavior. Likewise, those

Youth Group by Vince Daugherty

Learning to Live Peaceably

I remember growing up getting into arguments with my brother or other kids from my neighborhood. Sometimes I can even be argumentative as an adult. It never turns out well.

Romans 12:18 says, "if it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

You can begin to practice this now as a kid so when you get older it is already something you are good at. Who are some people you can practice being at peace with? Parents, Brothers & Sisters, Kids at School, Teachers, Kids in the Neighborhood, Kids in your Bible Class. Learn the Lesson while you are young. It will make it easier when you are older.

who are living in opposition to Jesus should be noted and their behavior avoided. 3 John is a quick read, but we should be reading it and asking ourselves if our lives mimic Diotrephes more than it does Gaius or Demetrius?

Jude: Contend for the Faith

Jude drives his message home in just 25 verses. He wanted to write about the common salvation enjoyed by Christians, but he changed his focus to encourage his readers to contend for the faith (Jude 1-3). False teachers had stealthily crept in among the brethren and Jude does not want his readers caught off guard (Jude 4). He reminds them of the wicked who had perished before and wants them to know the false teachers troubling them would enjoy a similar fate (Jude 5-16). The faithful were to keep themselves in the love of God while remembering that God would keep them from falling if they walk in his paths (Jude 17-25).

Jude's words are forceful and filled with harsh warnings for those who are opposed to the truth. Jude reminds us that false doctrine has consequences. Jude wants us to know that no matter what the world does we can be secure in our God. The faith has been once for all-time delivered. There is not a new revelation coming. There is nothing that will change the truth. We must contend for the faith that was given in the first century until the Lord returns.

As you read the Bible remember to read all of it. Just because certain books are shorter does not mean that the messages within its pages are any less impactful. The four one-chapter books in the New Testament have something to say to the church today. Be people of reconciliation and forgiveness, love the truth, avoid and expose false teachers. God put the books that are in our New Testament there on purposefully. Let's read them with that thought in mind.

Senior Saints

 by John McShane

I ran across this little tidbit recently. "An old Cherokee told his grandson, 'My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, humility, kindness, empathy and truth.' The boy thought about it and asked, 'Grandfather, which wolf wins?' The old man quietly replied, 'The one you feed.'"

In today's world, these two wolves are all around us. How do we choose which one to feed? A lot can depend on the type of friends with whom we associate. The Bible tells us in many places how to choose friend. Proverbs 13:20 reads, "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." Proverbs 22:24-25 "Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare." Finally, 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: bad company ruins good morals."



Choose your wolf carefully!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Frank Hamby	Brenda Mask	Ron & Judy Ford
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt	Linda McShane	Stacey Wilson
Darlene Thompson	Bernetta Green	Ray Nashick
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson	Bob Pratt
Ciera Edwards	Ellen Shearer	Geny Johnson
Kathy Nester	Jim Turner	Margaret Coone
Sharon M. Washington	Annette Phillip	George Davis
Brian Smith	Sophia Smith	Melody Baxter
Bobby Sheumaker	Antoine & Marcella Swain	

(Please update the office of any changes)

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

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

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

Sunday, October 11, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"It's the Thought that Counts."

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"Christians Incite Mob"

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) David Anderson
Announcements David Anderson
A.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
Lord's Table Andre Medley
Closing Prayer Josh Potvin

TODAY - Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
Lord's Table Andre Medley
Closing Prayer Zach Jones

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Rick Kenyon
Devo Ian Enamorado
Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

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. 20	\$5,927.66
Sept. 27	\$5,775.00
Oct. 6	\$9,295.00
Contribution Average	\$7,151.48

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Bobby Sheumaker is having an outpatient procedure on Friday, Oct. 9.

Stacey Wilson was recently in the hospital but is home recovering now.

Bob Pratt request prayers from the church. He will be going to the Moffitt Cancer Center next Monday 10-12 to find out the best treatment for lung and thyroid cancer. Thank you.
In Christian love, Bob and Bea Pratt

Thank you

Geny Johnson wants to thank everyone for the prayers as she awaits her hernia surgery. She misses & loves everyone.

Thank you

to our elders for another opportunity for the ladies to enjoy another Ladies' Day both in person and online;
to Jessica Anderson and Marissa Estridge for their wonderfully uplifting lessons;
and to the ladies that worked behind the scenes in organizing the day.

RESPONSES

Johnny Singh- Misuse of text messaging.
Andre Medley - Control his speech better and for his family.
Annette Phillip to be stronger & healthier to evangelize more.

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

Please keep Debbie Bush in prayer after the loss of her sister in-law, Beverly Kinsey.

A podcast I stumbled across touched on a point I had never thought about before. The way we choose to dress and/or style/adorn our hair can be a distraction during worship service.

Our clothing should always be modest! But it's not just a matter of our clothing being too tight, a dress/skirt being too short, or a blouse/dress being too low cut. It's also about them being too flashy or gaudy.

Consider a few things before you get dressed:

- *Does my clothing draw too much undue attention to me?
- *Will it be a distraction for others during worship?
- *Will my outfit cause me to show too much legs or cleavage?
- *Is God pleased with how I'm dressed?

Let us examine ourselves in front of the mirror before we leave every day, especially before worship service every Sunday. If adjustments need to be made, let's correct them before we leave home.

Let us remember that worship is about God, not about us.

Proverbs to Ponder

Knowledge begins with fear

Proverbs 1:7

Wisdom laughs

Proverbs 1:26-30

A loving God hates

Proverbs 6:16-19

If we keep our mouth, we keep our life

Proverbs 13:3

Nagging is a "no-no"

Proverbs 21:9, 21:19

God can make our enemies act like our friends

Proverbs 16:7

A good wife is from the Lord

Proverbs 18:22, 19:14

The wrong way may seem right

Proverbs 14:12, 16:25

A good name is better than good riches

Proverbs 22:1

God's word must not be tampered with

Proverbs 30:5-6

Balance is best

Proverbs 30:8-9

Fear is better than favor and beauty

Proverbs 31:30

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"IN THE BEGINNING WAS
THE WORD,
AND THE WORD WAS
WITH GOD,
AND THE WORD WAS
GOD."

JOHN 1:1