



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

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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.....6:30 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

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Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Getting To Know Jesus:

“The Good Shepherd”

Steven Ford

In studying the Bible, we will discover a recurring motif of shepherds and sheep. In the opening pages of inspiration, Abel is set as the world’s first shepherd (Genesis 4:2). Later, Moses is charged with keeping Jethro’s flocks (Exodus 3:1). One of the most widely known shepherds of all might be King David (1 Samuel 16:11). While these men (and many others) served as shepherds at various points in life, none would carry the same weight of responsibility nor the depth of love as the Good Shepherd Himself, Jesus. A look at John 10 will reveal the significance of our Lord’s role as the Good Shepherd.

Offers His Life

What sets the Good Shepherd apart from all others? For one, He was not only willing to give His life for the sake of His sheep, but He actually did it. Prior to be anointed as king, David faced the danger of confronting various wild beasts for the sake of his father’s sheep. He risked his life, but did not lose it for the flock (1 Samuel 17:34-36). On the other hand, Jesus knew the dangers that lay ahead of Him and yet he pressed on. In a discussion with Peter, Jesus spoke plainly of His fate. “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” (Matthew 16:21). It is further noted that Jesus willingly offered His life for His sheep. “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father (John 10:18). This voluntary offering demonstrated two wonderful facets of the relationship between the Shepherd and His flock. First, His willing offering of life proved that Jesus deeply loves His sheep. Further, it demonstrates that Jesus sees His sheep as far more than pets or a commodity. There is a deep and abiding relationship that is beyond compare. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus is rightly called the Good Shepherd because He offered His life for that of His Shepherd Jesus is rightly called the Good Shepherd because He offered His life for that of His Sheep.

Knows and Is Known

Since it’s beginnings as recorded in the Book of Acts, there have been countless souls added to the Lord’s church (Acts 2:41; 4:4). It is wonderful that each soul is able to know Jesus. Greater still is the fact that the Lord knows each of those souls. That is proof positive of His love and care for those that are His.

The hireling may not know the sheep nor might he be known by the sheep. The shepherd may be known by the sheep, but he may not know each individually. However, the Good Shepherd both knows and is known by the sheep. What a beautiful display of both care and compassion. Each sheep will have its own needs and challenges, but the Good Shepherd cares enough to know each one specifically. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (John 10:14). This kind of care builds trust and thus the sheep willingly follow. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). Not only will the sheep follow, but the established trust is the source of the confidence that all believers (sheep) can have in Jesus (cf. Hebrews words of His Father in Heaven. Again, Jesus is rightly known as the Good Shepherd because He knows and is known of those that are His.

Offers Eternal Life

All sheep benefit by having a diligent and caring shepherd. He protects, feeds, and cares for the sheep of his pasture. Yet, even with the greatest care offered, all sheep will one day die. Some will die of old age, some may be taken for meat, others may yet succumb to disease. Whatever the means, the fact still remains that the shepherd cannot permanently prolong the days of his sheep. That power belongs to the Good Shepherd alone. Jesus not only ensures that his sheep have the benefit of His protection and blessing of His nourishment, but He offers His life to extend the lives of His sheep. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28). What a comforting thought to know that the One that cares for us also provides eternal life and promises that no one can pluck us from his hand. Jesus provides a joy-filled life now, and an even greater life in the hereafter. "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:9-10).

Final Thoughts

There are many facets to our Lord's life and ministry. In getting to know these various facets, we can come to have greater knowledge, love, and appreciation for the Lord. In seeing Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we see His dedication, sacrifice, and attention devoted to those that are His. Not only was He willing, but the Lord went through with offering His life for His sheep. Not only that, but He knows every single member of His flock and is known by each. Such attention and care are unrivaled. As though those things were not enough, the Lord also offers eternal life. No shepherd could be greater. To bring these thoughts to a close, let us hear these words from Peter. Speaking of Jesus, Peter wrote, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Peter 2:24-25).

Join Us

FOR A SPECIAL SERIES OF STUDIES
WITH DR. STEPHEN C. ATNIP ON

The Holy Spirit

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2024

Sunday, November 17
9:30 am **Prevalent Views about the Holy Spirit**
10:30 am **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**
Fellowship Lunch following worship
6:00 pm **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Monday, November 18
6:30 pm Congregational Singing
7:00 pm **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Tuesday, November 19
6:30 pm Congregational Singing
7:00 pm **The Holy Spirit as Comforter**

Wednesday, November 20
6:30 pm **The Holy Spirit and Eternal Life**
Followed by a Fellowship Snack

SFA

PRAYER LIST

Current: Karen Ritchey, Casey Potvin's mother, will have a biopsy on Wednesday, Tonya Anderson will have sinus surgery this week, Chipper Lawton will be having medical tests to help figure out why she has been passing out

Continual: Rachel Zapata (health), Jim Turner (cancer) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health & travels).

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, Bettye Bolding, Nellie Anderson, Cheryl Barker

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

Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.

Lacey Parrish has placed membership here at SFA. Please get to know her and make her feel welcome here with us!

Upcoming Gospel Meetings

October 13 -16th - Eagle Lake church of Christ

Speaker: *THOMAS WISE*

Theme: "Can You Imagine?"

**October 13 -16th - Central church of Christ
(Haines City)**

Speaker: *KEVIN PATTERSON*

Theme: "Study the Word, Do the work, Teach Others"

**October 13 -16th - Central church of Christ
(Clearwater)**

Speaker: *PAUL PRYOR*

Theme: "Biblical Types and Shadows"

October 25- 27th - Laura Street church of Christ

Speaker: *STEVEN FORD*

Theme: "Words to Live By"

November 17 -20TH - SFA church of Christ

Speaker: *STEVE ATNIP*



P.I.E.

Ladies join us on Sunday
October 20, 2024 at 4:00 PM
for a "PIE" Party!

Sign up to bring your favorite
pie and join us for fun and fellowship
together with the ladies of SFA.

Scheduled to Serve in October

Designated Elder	David Anderson
Wednesday, October 9, 2024	
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Bobby Sheumaker
Sunday, October 13, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Noah: A Great Man of Faith" (Gen. 6:7-8)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Steven Ford
"Congregational Expectations" (2 Tim. 4)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Bea/Jeanelle
Song/Pray before class	Kyle Bingle
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Josh Epperson
Prayer / Bible reading	Jarred Spivey
Lord's Table (both)	Andre Medley
Closing Prayer	Josh Potvin
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	-
Sound Booth (both)	Jason H
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Janis/Nona
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Josh Epperson
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Closing Prayer	Jeff Stewart
Wednesday, October 16, 2024	
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	David Williams
How We Are Giving	
September 22	\$5,613.16
September 29	\$7,117.00
October 6	\$7,185.58
Contribution Average	\$6,876.85
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

Call to Me and I Will Help You

“Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you and you will honor me” (Psalm 50:15)

Have you ever been in a situation where you have offered help to someone and they would not accept it. They would not call you when they needed you because they didn't want to “inconvenience you”? It can be frustrating to say the least, but a situation like this made me think about how God must feel towards us.

God has promised us that He is always there for us and He is willing to help us through anything we face. Scripture tells us to “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matt 7:7-8). He also tells us that “Behold, he that keepeth Israel; shall neither slumber nor sleep” (Psalm 121:4). Yet, we try to do everything on our own because we don't want to bother Him with our “little problems”. How many times have we worried ourselves sick over something, maybe we've lost sleep or even made ourselves physically sick because we forgot to take it first to the one who is always waiting on us. He is always patiently waiting, He's never too busy and He is never going to sleep through our call. The next time you need help with something, don't wait until you are flat on your back before you look up. Look up first and the one who can help you will be eagerly waiting to do so.



“The Lord waits for you to come to Him” Isaiah 30:18

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY



Taught by
Susan Stearsman

The Spirit of Truth

Study of First John 3:24-4:11

October 22, 2024

7:00 PM



Future Class Dates:
November 12, 2024
December 10, 2024
January 2025 Three ladies classes during Lectureship

All ladies are invited to join us in the FSOP classroom at 1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 or Live stream through Zoom.

Receive the link to join class at
<https://fsop.net/ladies-class-registration>



Ladies who miss class may watch the recording later when it is posted to our Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.



If you have questions please contact us
(865) 683-4043
jagie@fsop.net

**Bible themed
TRUNK OR TREAT:
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26 @5:00 Pm
Sign up on the sheet in the
foyer if you want to be in-
volved with this fun event !**

**See Carlisa with any
questions**

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

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Romans 8:32



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