



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 40 October 1, 2024

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

### MINISTER

Steven Ford

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

OFFICE PHONE  
(863) 682-4702

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[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

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

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Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD  
Casey & Emily Paulin

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## Getting To Know Jesus: “The Word”

Steven Ford

There are a few Greek terms that are used in the New Testament that refer to the Word of God. A quick review will allow us to know how each is used. The first term is *graphé*. It means a writing, scripture; passage of scripture. We find this term in Second Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” The second term is *rhéma*. It means a word, by implication a matter; a thing spoken, a saying, a command, a report, a promise. It is used for the spoken word of God and the words of Jesus. We find this term in Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” The third term is *logos*. This term means a word, uttered by a living voice, [which] embodies a concept or idea. Yet another defines it as a word (as embodying an idea), a statement, a speech; divine utterance. We find this term in John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” This third term will be the focal point for this article. In what way is Jesus the Word (*Logos*)? In the same way that a person’s words reveal the content of his mind, Jesus perfectly and in every way reveals the mind and heart of God the Father.

## Jesus’ Message

Jesus can rightly be called the Word of God because He perfectly preached and taught the holy words of Jehovah. He did not come to the world preaching a message of presumption. The preaching of Jesus was a direct reflection of the mind of the Father. “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak” (John 12:49-50). Again, Jesus said, “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (John 14:10).

In the Old Testament, God pleaded with Israel that they might repent and live. Through the prophet Ezekiel (and a host of others) God demonstrated His desire to forgive and give life to His penitent children. “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel” (Ezekiel 33:11)? In the New Testament, Jesus taught the same thing when speaking to a Jewish tax collector. Knowing that

Jesus offered forgiveness and love, Zacchaeus repented and chose life. Our Lord declared, “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Through His teaching and preaching, Jesus demonstrated the mind of God to the world. In this way, Jesus fit the definition of Logos by sharing words of His Father in Heaven.

## Jesus’ Divine Role In Creation

The Bible gives us the details as it pertains to origins of the Universe. Moses wrote, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Notice further the method by which this was done. “And God said, let there be light” (Genesis 1:3); “And God said, let there be a firmament” (Genesis 1:6); “And God said let the earth bring forth grass” (Genesis 1:11); “And God said, Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26). In each phase of creation, the Bible says that God spoke and created all things. It is not until we open the New Testament that we learn how that was possible. Speaking of Jesus, Paul wrote, “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him” (Colossians 1:16). When God spoke, Jesus was the one by whom everything that exists came to be. God ordained it and Jesus created it. What an incredible concept. We get to see and experience the unsearchable mind of God through Jesus’ power to create.

Further, it can be noted that as the Word of God, Jesus shares in the divine nature with God. John opened his Gospel account with the following words. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3). Everything that was made came to be by the hand of Jesus Himself. This proves emphatically that Jesus is not a created being. If Jesus was with God in the beginning and created everything, He Himself could not have been created. He shares in the divine nature with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In speaking of Himself, Jesus said, “Fear not, I am the first and the last. I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell [Hades] and of death” (Revelation 1:17-18). Yes, Jesus created all and shares in the divine nature with the Father. Again, He is rightly called the word of God!

## Conclusion

There are many ways in which Jesus is presented to the world through the Scriptures. This study allows us to see Him as the Word of God. As such, it is known that Jesus embodies and reveals the mind of the Father. We can know God’s wisdom and will by the teaching, lifestyle, and creating power of Jesus. By the Word, we can also know the depths of God’s love, mercy, and kindness. John aptly wrote, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory as the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

**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:** Rachel Zapata is still not feeling well

**Continual:** 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.](#)

**?** Steven Ford had invited us to submit Bible questions to be answered during a Sunday evening Q&A sermon. Please send questions to him or place them in the box in front of the auditorium. **?**

## 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*

Theme: "Holy Spirit"



### 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
<b>Wednesday, October 2, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Frank Hamby
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Brian Kenyon
<b>Sunday, October 6, 2024</b>	
10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"The Glorious Grace of God" (Eph. 2:8-10)	
6:00 pm Sermon	
Question/	
<b>Those to Serve 10:30 am</b>	
Greeters	Olivia/Ingrid
Song/Pray before class	Brian Kenyon
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Brian Williams
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	-
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
<b>Those to Serve 6:00 pm</b>	
Greeters	Janis/Nona
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Jarred Spivey
Closing Prayer	David Anderson
<b>Wednesday, October 9, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Bobby Sheumaker
<b>How We Are Giving</b>	
Sept. 15	\$7,200.00
Sept. 22	\$5,613.16
Sept. 29	\$7,117.00
Contribution Average	\$6,868.03
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!**

Women of the Word

Ingrid Stewart

## The Hospital for Spiritual Sickness

Have you ever noticed that a hospital has different floors and wards for a variety of illnesses/medical conditions? Labor & delivery, the cardiac unit, the ER, the trauma unit, the mental ward, to name a few.

The church is the hospital for the spiritually sick. The patients that come for healing have various conditions. They include those who are lonely, those who are drug addicts, those who are alcoholics, those with mental or emotional issues, those who think they don't need God, those who don't know that they are sick, etc. These people will come in many ages, shapes, colors, economic backgrounds, cultural backgrounds. Let us not frown at or shun anyone who comes looking for spiritual healing because they are all important in the sight of God.

Who doesn't need a physician? Those who are healthy don't need one. (Matthew (9:12) "When Jesus heard that, He said to them, those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." (Luke 5:32) "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

The world is full of sin-sick people, and they need the healing power of the Great Physician. We ALL need Jesus. (Luke 19:10) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus is the answer to spiritual sicknesses.



**Youth Group  
L2L Meeting**  
Sunday, October 6  
After morning worship  
Please sign up for the lunch!

LADS TO LEADERS & LEADERETTES

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

**Y. A. G.**

**October 6, 2024**  
**7:15pm**  
hosted by the Bingle family  
after evening worship

DINNER & FELLOWSHIP FUN!

**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**

**FSOP Ladies Class/ Tues. Oct. 22 @ 7:00 PM**  
**"The Spirit of Truth" (1 John 3:24-4:11)**  
**Teacher: Susan Stearsman**  
*All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend!*

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

Email us: [SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto: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

**"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for  
my expectation is from him."**

**Psalm 62:5**



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