

How Can We Know God Exists?

PART 1

To many in the “scientific” community, the existence of God is not a possibility. Some are so biased that they will not accept the evidence that not only proves God’s existence, but also proves the impossibility of God’s not existing! While it is true that only through the Bible can we get a complete picture of God, proving God’s existence is not at all dependent on the Bible. The Bible exists because of God, NOT God exists because of the Bible! Though it may surprise some, logic proves that God exists. Atheism is actually illogical and irrational! Before a truth-seeker even opens the first page of the Bible, he or she can know God exists based on any one of three “families” of logical arguments. The first of these is called “cosmological.” It states, “For every contingent effect, there must be a sufficient cause.” A working definition of “contingent” is “ify.” That is, if something depends on anything else for its existence or current status, it is contingent. A tree, for example, is contingent because it depends on many other factors for its existence and current status. Just consider one aspect of that tree: where did it come from? A seed. Correct. Where did that seed come from? A tree. Correct, but an infinite set of finite causes (seed ... tree ... seed ... tree, etc.) is logically impossible to be a sufficient cause! Somewhere back in time, there had to be a sufficient, non-contingent, uncaused Cause that brought the tree into existence! At this point, we cannot call that uncaused Cause, God, but rest assured, subsequent articles will prove just that. For now, though, just realize that (*continued below*)



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



Saturday, October 18

For our monthly youth devo and activity, we will be going to the semi-annual picnic and sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow.

There will be other congregations represented there along with their youth. If you would like to go, please see Brian or Jagie for time and logistics.

Sun. thru Wed., October 26-29 Is our Gospel Meeting with Billy Lambert. Yes, this is announced on at least two other pages, but, young people, you will be blessed to hear the Word proclaimed by this preacher. Remind your parents to come along, and if you need a ride, it can be arranged!

Saturday, November 15 Venice church of Christ will host a youth progressive dinner. It begins at 3:00 p.m. at their church building. See Brian or Jagie if you want to attend.

(*continued from above*) there must necessarily be a sufficient cause for everything that depends on something else for its existence and present status. No other reality can logically explain the existence of contingent things, except an uncaused Cause! Let us not be deceived nor allow “scientists” to bully us into thinking that believing in God is a “blind leap of faith” with no objective proof! God’s non-existence is impossible! ❤️ Brian



Special thanks to all who are helping with our youth. We know the sacrifice involved—we are all busy—yet you willingly give your time and talents to encourage those who, generally, need it most. May God bless you, our youth, their parents, and the entire congregation!

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 67 No.42 10 -21-14

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

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J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
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Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
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South Florida Ave. Church of Christ

Invites You To Our
2014 Fall Gospel Meeting
With
Billy Lambert
October 26-29, 2014



Sunday Services, October 26, 2014

9:30am — Faithful to the Word of God

10:30am — Our Greatest Temptation

6:00pm — The Best Thing Said About A Christian

Monday — Wednesday Services at 7:00pm

Monday — Be Faithful unto Death

Tuesday — The Burden of Unfaithfulness

Wednesday — Be Not Weary in Well Doing

Billy Lambert is a graduate of Faulkner University. He began preaching in 1962. He currently preaches for the Summerdale church of Christ in Summerdale, Alabama. Brother Lambert is the speaker for the *Getting To Know Your Bible* TV program that can be seen nationwide on DIRECTV. He does campaign work in Trinidad and Guyana, South America. He has participated in radio work for over 30 years and has held many meetings in several states. Brother Lambert has spoken on several Lectureships, including the Florida School of Preaching Lectureship. He has produced several articles for *The Gospel Advocate*, as well as developed several workbooks for spiritual growth. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Snook Foundation, as a Board Member at Faulkner University, and as Director for the Faulkner Foundation. Together, he and his wife, Louise, have three children and five grandchildren.

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Elders: David Anderson, Kenny French, Bobby Sheumaker

Ministers: Bob McAnally, Brian Kenyon

A Good Place to Pray

Jeff A. Jenkins

Apparently Chick-Fil-A must be a good place to pray. I see it happen quite often. Before I tell you about my most recent citing of prayer at Chick-Fil-A, allow me to remind you again that it is one of my favorite places. The food is delicious. It is always fresh and reasonably priced compared to many places. The people who work at the Chick-Fil-A's in the Metroplex are always friendly and cordial. I mean, where else do they serve you always with a smile and then say, "My pleasure!"

At most of the stores there is free Wi-Fi where I can get a lot of work done (like write a new post for the blog or catch up on answering email) while I sip on a large sweet tea (which by the way is consistently outstanding!). They are always closed on Sunday to allow their employees time to worship and spend time with their families (how can you not love that?). I know, I know, not everyone loves Chick-Fil-A as much as I do, but hey, I have to; I am a Chick-Fil-A Ambassador.

The other day as I answered emails and wrote a couple of blog posts, I saw three different groups of people who prayed. The last people were a couple of young ladies who were seated across the lobby involved in what appeared to be a very intense conversation. It was obvious that one of the young ladies was hurting. Before they left, they held hands across the table and prayed. I don't know the source of the pain or the content of the prayer, but I thought, how wonderful. I hope that more Christians will pray with and for one another. Prayer is our lifeline to God. The disciples of Jesus once requested of Him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1-2). Obviously during the time they had spent with Jesus they saw how important prayer was to Him. They wanted to know the secret to His prayer life.

In our Sunday Bible class last week we learned from Jesus (John 14-16) the following thoughts about prayer.

PRAYER IS DEDICATION. Prayer is our opportunity to show our devotion to God and our dependence upon God (John 15:5-7). When we pray, we are making a declaration that we are devoted to our Father and that we cannot survive by ourselves.

PRAYER IS COMMUNICATION. We understand that the Bible is God's way of communicating to us (John 17:17). Thankfully, our communication with God is not a one-way street. God allows us to communicate with Him through prayer. Prayer is our lifeline to God. Jesus tells us that we are God's friends. If we are God's children and His friends, He is interested in us. He is interested in our concerns, our cares, our worries, our relationships and everything about us. It is not necessary for us to know any key men, because we know the one who holds the keys.

PRAYER IS SUPPLICATION. Paul reminds us that we should let our requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6). The word "supplication" is just a big word for "request." We do not make our requests to God to give Him knowledge of what we need. God is already quite aware of every need we have. In addition to the reason Paul gives here in this passage for letting our requests be made known to God (so that we can have peace, Philippians 4:7), another reason would be so that we can articulate in our own heart and mind what we feel we need most.

PRAYER IS COOPERATION. When we pray, we are partnering with God. We are asking God to help us in our work for Him, with our families, in our walk with Him. When we abide in Christ and ask for the needs of our heart, we are bringing glory to God (John 15:7-8).

So after seeing all of these people praying I did what every preacher would do. I prayed! My prayer on this day was focused on my two families. I prayed to the Lord about my concerns for my physical family and my spiritual family. As it turned out, it was a very intense prayer. As it turned out, Chick-Fil-A is in fact a pretty good place to pray.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jacquelin Dopwell is recuperating at home after a mild stroke. Charles Sanford is recuperating after successful knee surgery in Gainesville last Friday. Rosalind Coleman, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson and Margaret Coone.

Relatives: Billy Harrison, Bob Kirkland, Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton.

Others: Sharon Egolf requested prayer for Kimberly Gustafson who is having tests. Bill Carroll, Peggy Boyles, Billy Harrison, Frank Wood, Robie DeWitt & Bonnie Hendricks.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 18th: - Semi-Annual Picnic/Sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow, hosted by Orange Street, beginning at 11:00 am, with lunch at 12:00 pm and singing to follow. Bring your favorite dish to share & a chair if you like.

Oct. 24th - 26th: - 87th Homecoming at N. Jackson Ave. Church of Christ in Bartow. Jason Hendrix will be speaking on the 24th & Brian Kenyon will be preaching at the morning service on the 26th.

Oct. 26th -29th: 2014 Fall Gospel Meeting here at So. Fla. Avenue Church of Christ. Bill Lambert from Sumnerdale, Alabama will be the speaker.

Oct. 26th: - After our morning worship service we will have lunch in the fellowship hall. Members, please bring food and drinks for your family and a little extra for our guests.

Nov. 7th-9th: - Father/Daughter Retreat at Central Florida Bible Camp.

Nov. 8th: - Fall Fundraising BBQ at Central Florida Bible Camp from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Please see the bulletin board for more information on the above events.

Visitors

Mrs. Wanda Powell & Amy, Alicia Smith & Latraile, Mr. & Mrs. Rico Brown & daughter, Laila.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

Fred Strickland..... **Table**Jimmy Sweeney
Jim Turner..... **Assist**..... Robert Cooper

October 19, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Paul Romine

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kyle Williams
Closing Prayer Chuck Wyatt

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Anderson
Greeters The Kenyon Family
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. October 22, 2014

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231

Sunday, October 26, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle
Greeters Bruce & Dolores Longfellow
Att. Cards..... Sebastian Rapley & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. Oct. 29, 2014

Song Leader Kyle Bingle
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 21	\$3,979.26
Sep 28.....	\$4,631.00
Oct 05	\$4,301.00
Oct 12	\$4,462.25
Contribution Average	\$4,494.68
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS



This Week's Message
"David's Concern"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com