

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

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. 70 No. 39 10-17-17

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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.....7:00 p.m.

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.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



**IN
SEARCH**
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

Help Spread the Word! Invite Your Friends & Neighbors!



South Florida Avenue
Church of Christ
Invites You To Our

Gospel Meeting
November 12-15, 2017

with **Steve Higginbotham**

Fundamentals for Faith and Accountability

Sunday Services, November 12

9:30 am – *How to Be a Better Student of the Bible*

10:30 am – *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus*

11:45 – **Lunch provided (visitors welcome!)**

6:00 pm – *He Is My Everything*

Monday—Wednesday Services Begin at 7:00 pm

Mon. – *Morals in an Immoral Age*

Tue. – *Non-Denominational Christianity*

Wed. – *Reasons to Keep the Faith*

Three Relevant Principles In Light of Our Gospel Meeting

Brian R. Kenyon

Some have questioned the effectiveness of Gospel meetings in this day and age. Some congregations have done away with them all together. Others have reduced the number they have. However, Gospel meetings, like many other methods of reaching the lost and edifying the saved, are still effective when local church members realize the importance of the Gospel and support the effort. Below are some reasons why the Gospel and Gospel meetings are still relevant and important.

The Lord Is Coming

Paul told the Thessalonians that “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire [he will take] vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,” and then said that “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thes. 1:7-9). The Bible clearly teaches that those “who do not know God” and those “who do not obey the gospel” will be separated from God forever. Whether these are two separate groups or two ways of identifying the same group of people, one fact is clear: without obedience to the Gospel, people are lost! Jesus came the first time to save the lost (Lk. 19:10), but when He comes again, it will be to judge the world (Mt. 7:21-23; 25:31-46)!

The Gospel Saves

What is the Gospel that those who do not obey will result in their being eternally lost? Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1-4). The Gospel’s fundamental facts are the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, according to the Scriptures. The Gospel is not limited to just the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, but everything ties into them. For example, Peter did not deny the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ when he was “not straightforward about the truth of the gospel” (Gal. 2:14). Peter violated the Gospel by showing partiality to the Gentiles when certain Jewish brethren came from Jerusalem (Gal. 2:11-13). Not only does Paul give the fundamental facts of the Gospel in First Corinthians 15:1-4, but he also acknowledged the Gospel as that “by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:2). The fundamental facts of the Gospel must not only be believed but acted upon.

The Gospel Must Be Obeyed

How does a person obey the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ? Baptism is how one obeys these fundamental facts of the Gospel. Paul asked the Romans: “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4). Later in that same chapter, Paul wrote, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17-18). That “form of doctrine” that the Romans obeyed was a form of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ depicted in baptism (Rom. 6:3-4)! There is no way to be saved by the Gospel except by obeying it!

Conclusion

Since God wants all people to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4), He wants all to obey the Gospel (Mt. 28:19-20). Whether a person is outside of Christ or in Christ, he or she needs to hear the Gospel. Are Gospel meetings a waste of time and resources? To say they are reveals a lack of confidence in the Gospel being “the power of God to salvation” (Rom. 1:16). Invite your neighbors and friends to attend our Gospel meeting! ♥ Brian

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Please continue to remember Ginny Hamby, Brenda Mask, Evelyn Wyatt, Jim Turner, Margaret Coone, Sharon Washington, Carol Eason and Josephine Bowman in prayer.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler.

Others: Joy Baker, (Michelle Paulin's cousin), Duane Nelson, Joyce Stearsman, Jack Pinckert, Paul Meacham, and Carla Chin (Zsazeli Enamorado's teacher).

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 21st: Trunk or Treat at Tyler & Jessica Anderson's house from 5:30 pm til dark. Please bring finger foods and camp chairs.

Saturday October 28th: All members interested in helping to plan, organize and direct a Senior Saints program, there will be a meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. If you plan to attend there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

October 28th-29th: 90th Homecoming at the North Jackson Ave. church of Christ in Bartow.

Saturday, November 4th: Ladies Day at Kissimmee church of Christ.

Saturday, November 4th: Door knocking for our up-coming Gospel Meeting. Meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday November 5th: Any youth that want to decorate turkey bags for VISTE, please meet at the church building at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday Nov 11th: Door knocking for our up-coming Gospel Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

November 12th-15th: Our Fall Gospel Meeting, speaker will be Steve Higginbotham.

Response

Steve Beebe was baptized into Christ on Friday Oct. 13th. Let's encourage him and welcome him into our family.

Resignation

As of October 8, 2017, I Jeff Bingle will be stepping away from the role of a deacon at South Florida Ave. church of Christ. It is nothing the church or member or myself has done to help me make my decision. In Christian love, Jeff Bingle

Thank You

I just wanted to say thanks to all of those who sent cards, called and prayed for me while I was sick. God is so good!
Virginia Walker

Visitors

Allen & Virginia Rupert, Dennis & Jean McCarter, Floyd & Shirley Loudermilk, Mark & Vanessa Legg, Megan Carter, Shonda and Jaylen Toliver, Jennifer Waldon, Tayon Gordon, Ralph & Patricia Rogers, Cyndi Blackburn, Tim & Judy Chambers and Bob & Louise Lilley.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

David Anderson **Table** David Williams
Vince Daughtery **Assist** Robert Cooper

Sunday, October 22, 2017 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer John McShane

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal
Greeters Darlene/ Brenda
Att. Cards Ian/Paul
Open & Close Building John McShane

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Song Leader Matt Willcut
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer Vince Daughtery

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005

Sunday, October 29, 2017 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Bobby Simpson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Greeters Longfellows
Att. Cards Willcut boy's'l
Open & Close Building John McShane

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Kenny French

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sept 24.....	\$6,078.00
Oct 01.....	\$10,676.00
Oct 08.....	\$4,847.23
Oct 15.....	\$4,691.00
Contribution Average	\$5,378.43
2017 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

Fortifying Christians

The church is meant to grow, both spiritually and numerically (cf. Dan. 2:44; Mt. 13:31-32). The church of Christ began in Jerusalem on that first Pentecost following the Lord's resurrection (Mt. 16:18-19 cf. Acts 2:38-41, 47). It was around three thousand converts strong in the beginning (Acts 2:41), and continued to grow all the way through the persecution of Saul when the disciples were dispersed from Jerusalem and "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:1-4). A summary of that congregation in its beginning showed that its members were fortified from the start in at least three ways. **Fellowship** Luke wrote that "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need" (Acts 2:42-45). First, their fellowship was based on spiritual things (i.e., the apostles doctrine, worship, and prayers). Second, their fellowship allowed some to sell their possessions and give the proceeds to those in need, which required great unity and godly love for each other (cf. Acts 4:32-34). Christians need the support and fellowship of other faithful Christians in order to stay enthusiastic for the Lord! **Follow-up** Luke also recorded that the Jerusalem church continued "daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate (*continued below*)



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

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

WE REJOICE WITH GOD, ANGELS, AND THE LORD'S FAMILY



at the baptism of Steve on Friday night, Oct. 13, 2017. Let us welcome and encourage our new brother in Christ!

(*continued from above*) their food with gladness and simplicity of heart" (Acts 2:46). Their follow-up included two areas. First, they followed-up in the temple, which is where studying, praying, and worship often took place. Second, they followed-up in each other's homes to eat and enjoy more fellowship with one another. "Simplicity [singleness, KJV] of heart" refers to their sincerity (cf. Col. 3:22). They sincerely enjoyed following-up with one another! **Favor** As a result of their fellowship and follow-up being known by their community, the congregation was "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). The individual members of the church grew spiritually, and the congregation grew numerically! May we realize our need for spiritual growth that is spurred by study, worship, and fellowship. Let us grow together in the Lord! ❤️ *Brian*



Coming Soon to South Florida Avenue

For the winter quarter, we will have a new Bible school curriculum. The training workshop has been changed to **Nov. 5 from 2:00-5:00 pm**. Let's be the best Bible class teachers we can be!

The Church & The Home Working Together