



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 44 October 26, 2021

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## EMAIL

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

## WEB PAGE

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

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

## 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.

## **The Traps of Self-Righteousness**

### *Romans 2*

*Vince Daugherty*

In wartime, dense jungles can be the most difficult terrain to pass for an advancing army. Nature itself can create many obstacles but also the defending army can lay traps on unsuspecting soldiers. Spiritually speaking we are walking through the dense jungles of life, but also there are traps that we can fall into. An attitude of self-righteousness can leave us exposed to terrible pitfalls to the faith. In his epistle to Rome, Paul says the Gospel "is the power of God to salvation" which is Good News because he quickly changes his tone to say that the wrath of God is coming towards all unrighteousness. There are some who might want to elevate themselves to a mode of thinking that maybe I do not belong in the unrighteous category. In the words of Star Wars legend Amiral Ackbar..."It's a trap!"

### **Trap #1 – Comparison Trap (Rom. 2:1-3)**

"You are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge. For in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same thing" (2:1). Have you ever had a thought in your mind or even said out loud, "I know I am not perfect, but at least I'm not as bad as that person." This is an easy trap to fall into. The fallacy is that we are using the wrong comparison. Sure you will always be able to find someone worse than you, but is the fact (or possible fact) that you are more "good" than another mean that you are somehow justified by this? Sin is what separates us from God, period. While sometimes earthly consequences may have varying degrees, anyone who has sinned against God stands guilty. "But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. "And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God (2:2,3)?" Each individual will be judged for what they have done. The comparison game will not work, guard yourself against falling into this trap which so easily ensnares. Our comparison for holiness is Christ and ourselves. A good comparison is to compare ourselves to who we were yesterday. Ask yourself, "Am I taking another step closer to Christ today?"

### **Trap #2 – Validation Trap (Rom. 2:4-5)**

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance (2:4)?" What is to be the ultimate motivator for our repentance-- that God is good? How do we know that God is good-- we can be reconciled to God even though we have made a mess of it. God is longsuffering. He is willing to suffer long on our behalf. There is no reason for why we are deserving of God's goodness towards us. How are we to act when we messed up the relationship in the first place and God is willing to take us back? Should we continue in sin that grace may abound-- Heaven forbid (Rom. 6:1)! However, we can fall into this very trap if we are not careful to remember how good God is to us. When we bank on God's goodness even though we continue to walk according to the flesh, we are playing a dangerous game. "But in accordance with your hardness of heart and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." Just because we are not zapped with a lightning bolt from heaven every time we make a mistake does not mean that God is not displeased when we sin. Actions that are contrary to the will of God will always be invalid. I cannot say to myself, "because I did not see immediate consequences, God must not care about this action." We are only playing with fire and allowing our bodies to become enslaved

to sin all over again. Guard your heart, remembering God's grace is not a thing to be played with but cherished knowing what we are really deserving. Also, we know that God's longsuffering is not for me only but that others can come to repentance as well.

### **Trap #3 – Heritage Trap (Rom. 2:6-15)**

"[God], who will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God" (2:6-11). Just as sure is salvation to everyone who believes-- Jews and Greeks, so too is condemnation for the unrighteous. Your cultural or ethnic background cannot save you. Jews in Jesus' day struggled with this concept. They believed (especially the Jewish elites) because they were God's chosen people, they somehow had an inside track to righteousness. However, even a cursory reading of the Old Testament plainly shows God will not discriminate when it comes to punishment -- even if it is those of the House of Israel. An argument could be made it is a worse punishment for those who ought to have known better. This can be true of people today. Children who have grown up in Christian homes can develop a sense that they are justified because of "mom and dad." Scripture says, "For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without the law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law" (2:12). Simply living in a "Christian environment" does not guarantee one's justification. The text says, "for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified" (2:13). Every individual will have to stand for themselves in the day of judgment. We will be judged not on what our family did or our country or any other group to which one may belong. We will be judged for our own deeds -- eternal life to those who have done good, and condemnation and separation for those who have done wickedly.

### **Trap #4: Hypocrisy Trap (Romans 2:16-24)**

People can see right through hypocrisy, and God can too. "In the day God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel" (2:16). We often think

we can get away with simply talking a good game, but our actions will always speak louder than our words. We pridefully would like to think of ourselves as teachers, yet expose ourselves as frauds when we fail to live up to those same standards. "Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes..." (2:17-20). If an instruction is good for others, it ought to be good enough for you as well. "You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, Do not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?" (2:21-22) The world watches God's people and wants to know if there is really something different about them or can they be written off as selling snake oil? How we act, either consistently to what we say and preach, or hypocritically, will either pull people in or drive people away from God-- woe to those who would cause such a one to stumble.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Senior Saints

by John McShane

For the next several weeks, I am going to try something different. I will put myself in the company of Moses as he comes down from Mount Sinai carrying the two tablets of stone with what is commonly referred to as the Ten Commandments. These can be found in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:4-21. I am going to put Moses in today's world. What I intend to show is how today's world is doing, as far as keeping the commandments God gave to Moses. Try to picture in your mind what Moses would see if he wandered into Lakeland today carrying and proclaiming the Ten Commandments. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai after receiving the Ten Commandments, he found his people worshiping a golden calf as told in Exodus 32:1-4. The people had made this golden calf because they did not know what had happened to Moses as he was delayed in coming down. What kind of golden calf would Moses find in Lakeland today? As we go through this series, I am going to use the following as a condensed version of the Ten Commandments. 1. Thou shall have no other gods before me. 2. Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image. 3. You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 5. Honor thy father and mother. 6. Thou shall not kill. 7. Thou shall not commit adultery. 8. Thou shall not steal. 9. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor. 10. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's house.

## Youth Group News

# Bible Trivia

on

# Kahoot!

Every Thursday at 7:00 pm.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Carol Edmonson - health  
 Bernetta Green - health  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Kathy Nester - eye surgery  
 Sharon M. Washington - health  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Flo Duffy - eye problems  
 Stacey Paulin - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack  
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg  
 Katrina Greene - knee replacement  
 Stacey Wilson - knee replacement

John & Linda McShane  
 Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Jim Turner - health, tests  
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health  
 Debbie Bush - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annette Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Tanner Estridge - health  
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery  
 Brenda Mask - health  
 Darlene Thompson - health  
 Sharon Egolf - health  
 Jeanelle Thrower - fell

## Recent requests:

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

## Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

*Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down.*

## Updates & Prayer requests

**Stacey Wilson** is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on November 4.

**Jeanelle Thrower** fell and got a small break in pelvic bone. She will begin rehab soon.

**Dorothea Lauther** will be traveling back to Jamaica soon.

**Antoine Swain** thanks everyone for the prayers for his recent eye surgery.

## Responses

**Annette Phillip** asks for prayers about her deteriorating health.

## 5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **October 31, 2021.**

if you would like to give additional funds at other times of the month, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

*Thank you for visiting*



Brandon, Jessi & Branson Evans  
 Bruce & Cheryl England  
 Marcia Island Leah Lobban  
 Brandi Brown



## PRAYER LIST

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### October

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/Prayer ..... Jonny Singh  
 Devo ..... David Anderson  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

### Sunday, October 31, 2021

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Josh Cantrell  
 "Authentic Christianity"  
 Acts 1:1-3

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Josh Cantrell  
 Devotion

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Greeter ..... Waldon  
 Song/prayer before class ..... David Williams  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson  
 Lord's Table ..... Andre Medley  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Brunson  
 Lord's Table ..... Andre Medley  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Stewart  
**SINGING SERVICE**

### Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Matt Webb  
 Devo ..... Jonny Singh  
 Closing Prayer ..... Zach Jones

## Upcoming Events

### October

26 - FSOP ladies class, 7pm  
 28 - Kahoot challenge, 7pm  
 31 - Singing PM Service  
 - Trunk or Treat

### November

6 - SFA corn roast, 5pm  
 7 - L2L workday  
 - fellowship in-service  
 12 - Youth group bonfire  
 14-17 Fall gospel mtg

### November cont.

19 - Youth group  
 thankful meal

### December

1 - Quarterly challenge  
 4 - Youth group  
 caroling & parties  
 5 - Service project  
 12 - L2L workday  
 18 - Wreaths Across  
 America

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 10 ..... \$7,141.00  
 Oct 17 ..... \$6,352.00  
 Oct 24 ..... \$5,088.94  
**Contribution Average ..... \$6,920.35**

## Principles Don't Change

**"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" Deuteronomy 6:6-7.**

**My Daddy said to me one day to get me to remember these principles he had taught me, "If something is wrong at 16 it is wrong at 60."  
God be with us all as parents and grandparents to teach and practice God's word, and when we mess up, make it right.**

*(continued from page 2)*

### Trap #5: Appearance Trap (Romans 2:25-29)

"For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law, but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision" (2:25). Circumcision carried the idea that this was an outward sign to the world that this was God's man. What would the watching world think if, "those of the circumcision" were the worst of all heathens? That outward sign has now become anathema to what God actually represents. I imagine someone today who has a cross necklace or a cross tattoo whose actions clearly do not represent anything for that which Christ stands. Think of a person who by outward appearances has everything in order, they attend service regularly, sing out the loudest, but their lives Monday through Saturday in no way shape or form reflect holy and righteous living. To the watching world, that individual has made the name of Christ a laughing stock. A man of God is one whose inward being is aligned right and his outward being. Woe to the one who thinks merely cleaning the outside of the cup

will do. "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart."

**Blessing bags are available in the north side foyer for everyone to take and use. Keep them in your car so you can be a blessing when you share them with someone in need.**

**A BIG THANK YOU to our Senior Saints for assembling them for us!**

**Weekly prayer time for our evangelism efforts every Sunday evening - 5:45 pm fellowship hall**

[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**  
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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"LET EACH OF YOU LOOK OUT NOT ONLY FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS. LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS"**

*Philippians 2:4-5*