



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 43 October 27, 2020

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

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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.

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

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.

The Minor Prophets at a Glance

Hiram Kemp

Much of the religious world today views the role of the prophet as a fortune teller. However, in biblical times the prophet was more of a preacher who spoke to his own times with an occasional message for the distant future. In our English Bibles, there are what we refer to as five major prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel). Then there are twelve books we call the minor prophets (Hosea through Malachi). The words "major" and "minor" have nothing to do with these books' importance, but it indicates the length of the books. The twelve books we call the minor prophets are significantly shorter in length than those called the major prophets. Nevertheless, there are still major lessons in the twelve smaller prophetic books.

Since these books are tucked near the end of our Old Testament, it might be easy for us to overlook them, but we must be sure that we do not ignore them. If we do not dig into these books, we will fail to reap the rich treasure that is stored within their pages. Every one of the minor prophet books is named after the prophet who carried the message recorded in the book. Still, we should not think of these books as autobiographical in any sense. There is relatively little information given about the men that served as prophets because their primary task was to give the people a message from God (cf. Jonah 3:2). In this article, I want to cover a few themes that are present throughout these twelve books. As we read these books, we should keep in mind that their work spans several centuries and different time periods. They were not all written back to back. Neither were they all written to the same group of people. Yet, there are still many similarities woven through these pages that the careful reader should take note of (cf. Romans 15:4). Here are some of the major themes in the minor prophets to consider as you study these books.

The Nations Rebuked

The prophets served as God's spokesmen on His behalf to the people of their world. Many of the prophets spoke directly to God's Old Testament people (Israel) but not all of them did. For example, Obadiah preached to the people of Edom (Obadiah 1:1). Jonah's message was to the Ninevites of Assyria (Jonah 1:1-2). Amos devoted an entire section of his book to messages to the gentile nations (Amos 1:2-2:3). Nahum deals with God's plan to punish the people of Nineveh (Nah. 1:1). Habakkuk contains a series of "woes" as God describes His wrath that will be poured out on Babylon (Hab. 2:6-20). This is important because sometimes Bible students mistakenly believe God was unconcerned with nations other than Israel in the Old Testament. This is not true. God was not only concerned with other nations, but He was sovereign over them and planned to hold them accountable for their sins (see Psalm 67). There are also strong rebukes within the minor prophets for God's people in books like Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. The minor prophets remind readers that God is reigning over all creation and that we all must submit to Him or else suffer the consequences of our rebellion (cf. Hosea 8:7).

Hope-Filled Messages

We may not be as well acquainted with the minor prophets as we would like, but one thing we can see as we read these books is they are filled with hope. Just about every

one of the minor prophets, while containing a fair amount of rebuke, ends with a message of hope and expectation. The people are told that while they were once not regarded as God's people because of their reckless and worldly behavior, they will be His once again (Hos. 1:10-11). God assures Israel that if she repents, He will restore all that was lost in her punishment (Joel 2:25-27). God will abundantly pardon His people and cast their sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:18-19). Because of God's faithfulness to His people and His promises, He can be both trusted in and rejoiced in regardless of the circumstances (Hab. 3:17-19). The Lord rejoices over His people with loud singing (Zeph. 3:17). Also, God would pour out an immeasurable blessing on those who were obedient to Him (Mal. 3:10). As we read the minor prophets, we should see a God who wants to bless, love, and forgive His people (Exod. 34:6-7). We are serving the same God who was present in the days of the minor prophets, and since He does not change, we can share this hope as well (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

The Coming Messiah

The primary focus of the prophets was on their day and the issues they were facing. Nonetheless, there were occasions when they looked ahead and made inspired predictions about the things coming in the distant future (cf. 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Several of the minor prophets speak about the forerunner of Jesus, Jesus' work on earth, and his coming kingdom. Those familiar with Peter's sermon in Acts 2:16-36 will remember that he quotes from Joel 2:28-32 as he speaks of the Holy Spirit falling on the apostles and the work they were doing. Also, Malachi makes two statements that refer to the person and work of John the Baptist (Mal. 3:1, 4:5; Matt. 11:7-15).

Micah foretells of Jesus being born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1-6). Zechariah gives amazing details of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem (Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:1-5), being betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:13; Matt. 26:14-16, 27:3-10), and being pierced by His enemies (John 19:34; Rev. 1:7). Furthermore, Micah mentions the church of Christ which would begin in Jerusalem and into which all nations would come for salvation (Micah 4:1-2; Acts 2).

Those who read the minor prophets will be able to see how every one of their messianic predictions was fulfilled in the New Testament. They were preaching both to their times and beyond their times. Jonah is perhaps the most well-known of the minor prophets. Jesus often compared Himself to Jonah in His preaching as He expected His listeners to be familiar with the book of Jonah (Matt. 12:39-41, 16:1-4). The minor prophets point us to Jesus as He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament message (Lk. 24:44). When we read these books, we should be looking for our Savior (cf. John 5:39-40, 45-47).

The minor prophets are in the Bible on purpose. God placed these books within the canon for a reason, and we should do our best to try and understand the warnings and warm messages that we find in these books. Not everything in the minor prophets is easy to understand. Some sections and chapters leave us scratching our heads and may take several readings to comprehend. However, we can benefit from their messages if we remember that they wrote and preached to warn the nations, including God's people, about their sinful behavior, held out hope for those who repented, and spoke of better days to come in the age of the Messiah. The minor prophets are worth reading. Open your Bible and see for yourself!

YOUTH GROUP

by Vince Daugherty

Have you ever read the story of the Prince & The Pauper? A boy prince is unsatisfied with his life of schedules and lessons that he wishes he could be like commoner boys who got to run around and play in the woods all day. There was also a pauper boy who wished he could be rich and have nice things like royalty had. When they happened upon meeting one another they noticed they looked very similar. They decided to change places, the pauper became prince and the prince a pauper. What seemed like a good idea in the beginning only turned out to be a terrible mistake. Each boy found out that whether one was royalty or a pauper each had their own troubles. They both realized that it was much better to be the person they were supposed to be -- A prince, a prince; and a pauper, a pauper. James 1:9-11 teaches us that there is no difference between the poor man and the rich man. While life may bring different challenges to each, life will always give challenges to all. Therefore, we must learn to love ourselves in whatever state we are, either rich or poor, and we must learn to love others just as ourselves, even if they are poorer or richer than we are because we are all one in Christ.

Senior Saints

by John McShane

As mentioned last week, we are going to talk about things we, as Christians, need to shed. This week's topic is anger. Anger is defined as a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility. Common sources of anger include fear, pain, and frustration. For example, some people become angry as a fearful reaction to uncertainty, fear of losing a job, or fear of failure. Others become angry when they are hurt in relationships or are caused by pain. We, especially now in this time of turmoil, get angry about what is happening in the world around us. It is our internal response to external stressors. Common emotions known to trigger anger are anxiety, shame, sadness, fear, frustration, guilt, disappointment, worry, embarrassment, jealousy, and hurt. How we handle our anger can affect our mental and physical health, especially if it lingers in our minds. To control our anger, we need to address what is causing the anger and do something that will eliminate the underlying cause or turn it over to God in prayer. The Bible has a lot to say about anger. In **James 1:20**, "*For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*" **Proverbs 15:18**, "*A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.*" Finally, this is the one I try to live by, **Ecclesiastes 7:9**, "*Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools. A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.*"

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt
 Darlene Thompson
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Ciera Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Melody Baxter
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Jim Turner
 Annette Phillip
 Joyce Williams

Ron & Judy Ford
 Stacey Wilson
 Ray Nashick
 Carol Edmonson
 Geny Johnson
 Margaret Coone
 George Davis
 Jessica Palmer

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

RESPONSES

Jessica Palmer requests prayers for better mental and physical health.

Stacey Wilson requests prayers for better health and to be a stronger Christian.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

George Davis was admitted into Lakeland Regional for bleeding in his stomach.

Thank you

Thank you for the phone calls, cards, and food.
 Love, **Cieara Edwards**

Welcome

to SFA

Sharon Roy

KAHOOT!

Youth Group, are you ready?

Next Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Ask Vince for details.



Daylight Savings Ends

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night, **October 31, 2020**

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Matt Webb
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Sunday, November 1, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Being About My Father's Business"
 Luke 2:49

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Preparation for Priests in the Kingdom"
 1 Peter 2:9-10

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Phil Fife
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Lord's Table George Davis
 Closing Prayer David Anderson

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Lord's Table George Davis
 Closing Prayer Gavin Williams

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Ian Enamorado
 Devo Matthew Webb
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

The City of Lakeland discontinued their mandatory face mask mandate on Oct. 5. However, to side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.
 Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 11	\$6,116.00
Oct. 18	\$7,961.00
Oct. 25	\$5,484.00
Contribution Average	\$7,107.44

A Beautiful Friendship

Exodus 3 is the beginning of a beautiful friendship. It's a rough start on Moses' part, but he comes around and learns to trust God.

It's like that with us, too. We are curious to see what the burning bush that doesn't consume is all about.

Maybe for us, it could look like a Christian who lives a life for Christ. Then, it is hearing the words of the Lord. It might take some convincing, but excuse after excuse, the truth overwhelmingly prevails leaving no other option except to obey because we know it's obviously the right thing to do.

Seeing the Lord work in all His wondrous ways, trust and reliance and dependence strengthen the new bond of friendship.

There are difficult days, even years, but in the end awaits the Promised Land.

WALKING IN SCRIPTURE



Enoch walked with God
(Genesis 5:24)



Christians are to walk in wisdom
(Colossians 4:5)

Christians must have a worthy walk
(Ephesians 4:1)



God's children are to walk in love
(Ephesians 5:2)

Walking in darkness ruins fellowship with God
(1 John 1:5-6)



Walking in the light keeps us cleansed
(1 John 1:7)



The Voice of the LORD (Psalm 29)

His voice is over the waters (Psalm 29:3)

His voice is powerful (Psalm 29:4)

His voice is full of majesty (Psalm 29:4)

His voice breaks the cedars (Psalm 29:5)

His voice flashes flames of fire (Psalm 29:7)

His voice shakes the wilderness (Psalm 29:8)

His voice makes the deer give birth (Psalm 29:9)

His voice strips the forest bare (Psalm 29:9)

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON;
LISTEN TO HIM."

MARK 9:7