

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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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

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald.....Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

A Crown of Thorns for a Crown of Life

Charlie L. Snodgrass

God created all things for sure; however, thorns and the like are a curse that the first sin of Adam brought upon the earth. “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field” (Genesis 3:17-18). There is a natural enmity between man and the thorn bush.

It is recorded in three of the four Gospel accounts that a crown of thorns was placed on the head of our Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2). In a manner of speaking, we could say, Jesus traded a crown of thorns for a crown of life. James tells us that a crown of life is promised to those that love God (James 1:12). Jesus promises the crown of life to those who are faithful (Revelation. 2:10).

Paul reminded the Galatians that Christ bore the curse of the law when He was crucified. He referred to Deuteronomy 21:23, which reads, “His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.”

The very effect of God’s curse on man was plaited and placed on the Holiest of all, and the end result is the greatest of prizes: a crown of life! In the beginning, God created all things. Man sinned. God cursed the ground and thorns grew. Man took thorns, the object of that curse, made a crown and ignorantly placed it on the head of our Savior. Then, man scoffed at Him and mocked Him. Finally, man hanged Him on a tree. Jesus bore the effect of our curse on His head. Jesus traded a crown of thorns for a crown of life. Will you trade your crown of thorns for a crown of life?

The Most Important Book

David Sargent

Toward the end of 2008 what was billed as the world's most expensive new book went on display at the New York Public Library. There are more expensive old books, but this is a new book produced by the Italian publisher Marilena Ferrari. It's cost: over \$100,000!

The book depicts the life and work of Michelangelo, including photographs of his drawings and sculptures, creations from the Sistine Chapel and his personal poetry. It weighs 62 lbs., has a front cover of white marble, and is covered with red silk velvet. Its paper is from one of Italy's oldest paper mills – the mill where Picasso bought his art paper.

Each book takes six months to make and comes with a 500-year warranty! As of December 2008, more than 20 of the books had been sold to buyers around the world.

These books are valuable because of the craft, quality of materials and time that goes into their production. After all, the books don't contain Michelangelo's actual art, just photos of it!

Yet, there is another book that is much more valuable. The most important book ever printed – and the most valuable book – is the Bible, God's Word. What makes the Bible so valuable is the content of its message – the very words of God. It is a priceless treasure!

Christians at Thessalonica understood the value of this Book. Paul commended them, saying: "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Consider the words of an unknown author as he gave tribute to the Word of God: This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy! The Word of God reveals the state of man: we are sinners, and unless our situation is remedied, we are doomed to destruction (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Matthew 7:13-14). The Word of God reveals the way of salvation: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus is the way of salvation (John 14:6), for He paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross on our behalf (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

To access the way of Salvation, the Word of God teaches us that we must place our faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). Then, as we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

God's Word is the most important Book! Read it to be wise, believe and obey it to be saved, and practice it to be holy. Won't you?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Faith West, Jacquelin Dopwell, Rosalind Coleman, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone & Shelby Mills. (auto accident).

Relatives: Joe Shanes, is out of ICU, but is fighting an infection. Amy Powell is recuperating after back surgery. Billy Harrison, Bob Kirkland, Wayne Hendrix & Dorothy Trice.

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

Others: Frances Sheffler, Suzy Adkins (stroke), Bill Carroll, Frank Wood, Robie DeWitt & Bonnie Hendricks.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 1st: - Annual Ladies Day at the Kissimmee Church of Christ beginning at 8:00 am. Please RSVP by Oct. 22nd.

Nov. 2nd: Our Monthly Fellowship in Service will be after our evening worship. We will send cards to the sick & to those who need our encouragement.

Nov. 7th-9th- Father/Daughter Retreat at CFBC.

Nov. 9th-13th: - Fall Gospel Meeting at Sixth Street Church of Christ. See bulletin board for information on the above events.

Visitors

Mrs. Jane Bitting, DeLana Peel & friend, Brooke. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Long, Mr. & Mrs. Chad Tagtow, Amelia, Anna & Micha. Mr. & Mrs. Tim Smith, Mr. Larry Ellis, Mr. Spencer Broome, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Shearer. Mr. & Mrs. Richard Meadows, Mr. Billy Lambert.

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the window-sill of Heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord,
Then with the vision in your heart,
Turn strong to meet the day.

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Danger In Waiting"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

David Anderson **Table** David Williams
Paul Romine **Assist** Josh Estridge

November 2, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle
Greeters The Sweeney Family
Att. Cards Sebastian Rapley & Quadarius Askew
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wed. November 5, 2014

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer John McShane

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

Sunday, November 9, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Antonio Martin
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer C. J. Grimes
Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
Att. Cards Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wed. November 12, 2014

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Closing Prayer Jason Hendrix

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 05	\$4,301.00
Oct 12	\$4,462.25
Oct 19	\$3,694.00
Oct 26	\$4,292.00
Contribution Average	\$4,471.34
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

How Can We Know God Exists?

PART 3

In the last two articles, consideration was given to two types of arguments that rationally and irrefutably prove the existence of a Supreme Being. These arguments stand on their own, no matter how “scholarly” and/or “educated” the opposition may be. This article will deal with the third family of arguments that proves the existence of God. Moral arguments have to do with a sense “oughtness” (right and wrong) and “prescribed values.” Do humans have a sense of right and wrong and/or can they criticize another’s moral judgments? If so, how can this be explained? Again, there are many individual arguments within this family of moral arguments, but only one sound argument is all it takes to prove the matter. Consider this argument: If humankind has a sense of moral oughtness for which existence the principles of organic evolution cannot account, then this sense of moral oughtness must have been supernaturally created. Humans do have a sense of moral oughtness for which organic evolution cannot account. While it may be true that all cultures of all time do not universally agree on every moral judgment, there is still a significant degree of agreement that cannot be explained by organic evolution. What list of moral rules could be derived from organic evolution? How about species (or racial) superiority/inferiority, “might makes right,” cannibalism, etc.? These things are not immoral among animals, but they are in humans. Why? From dirt and rocks? No! Logic indicates that the human sense of moral oughtness had to be created by a Supreme Moral Being! ❤️ *Brian*



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

Dates to Remember

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

Sunday night at 5:45 Our “pew packers” will meet to learn and teach basic Bible facts and Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians! Encourage and be encouraged!

Sun. thru Wed., October 26-29 Depending on when you get this, our Gospel Meeting with Billy Lambert may still be going on. The lessons he has given so far, have been tremendous! Remember the most important thing for a Christian is faithfulness! Remind your parents to come and hear the Gospel. 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.

Let's Make It A Habit!

Are you tired of not knowing how to respond to your classmates or coworkers when they ask questions or even make silly assertions about God or His word? Then make it a point to study the Bible every day! A great help in that goal is to attend our weekly Bible studies on Sundays and Wednesdays. Worship is important, but why not take advantage of the Bible classes too? God’s people were destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). However, this fear should not be the only factor motivating us. God’s word is freedom! Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Let’s get into the habit, if we’re not already, of attending Bible classes! ❤️ *Brian*

