

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.....9:30 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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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*

The Gospel's "Foolishness" Is Wiser Than the World's "Wisdom"

Brian R. Kenyon

Sometimes while talking with our friends and neighbors about the Gospel of Christ, they seem not to care nor understand its significance. Some even mock at the idea of such a misguided, "old-fashioned" idea. It is of interest to note why some of these reactions occur. At least part of the reason is revealed by Paul:

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." ²⁰Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²²For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are. (1 Cor. 1:18-28)

The Gospel Contrasts

To the lost, the Gospel is foolishness, but to the saved, the Gospel is God's power (1 Cor. 1:18). The word translated "message [preaching, KJV; word, ESV]" is from a common Greek word (*logos*) that basically means "word," or "message." Here, it is the message of the crucified Christ—His birth, His life, and His vicarious death. "Those who are perishing" refers to the lost, those on the path of eternal destruction (cf. Mt. 7:13-14; 2 Thes. 2:10). To these people, the Gospel message is folly! In contrast, the saved know the power of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16). They have recognized, accepted, and appropriated the death of Christ and all the attached blessings (cf. Rom. 6:3-4). No other message has the power to save (cf. Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 4:20).

The Gospel Confounds

Paul was not stating something new, for God's ways have always stood in stark contrast with the ways of humanity (1 Cor. 1:19 cf. Isa. 29:14; Ps. 33:10). The "foolishness" of God (as it is so termed by the world) makes human wisdom foolish (1 Cor. 1:20). When it comes to knowing God's plan, the wise (i.e., Greek philosopher), the scribe (i.e., Jewish scholar), and the "disputer of this age" (i.e., skilled debater and rhetorician cf. Acts 17:18-21) stand dumbfounded before God (cf. Isa. 33:18). God's way of redemption reduces all human wisdom to an absurdity (cf. Lk. 10:21). Because His plan does not match human wisdom does not invalidate it!

Human wisdom actually prevents people from coming to a knowledge of God (1 Cor. 1:21). Although God's existence can be known from nature (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-20), the Gospel plan of salvation requires knowledge of God's revelation, found only in the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)! The "message of the cross" is the means by which people are saved (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:8), not the wisdom of men. The Gospel message only saves those who obediently believe (cf. Jn. 3:16, 36; Acts 16:30-34). Jews and Greeks of the first century exemplify Paul's point (1 Cor. 1:22-23). The Jews demanded miraculous evidence from God as proof (Mt. 12:38-41; 16:1, 4; Mk. 8:11-12; Jn. 6:30). The Greeks were absorbed in speculative philosophy, and thus sought to make all conclusions based upon their own "intellect" (Acts 17:18-21). Christ crucified was a stumbling block to the Jews because, in their minds, a crucified Messiah was weak and defeated (Deut. 21:23 cf. Gal. 3:13). A crucified Messiah was also unacceptable nonsense to the Greeks (Acts 17:32). Like it or not, Jesus is God's eternal plan (Acts 2:22-24)!

Those who are called of God, however, recognize Christ as the power and wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24-25). The "called" are those who have obeyed the Gospel (2 Thes. 2:14). Christ is the saving power of God (1 Pet. 1:18-20), and He is the wisdom of God because He revealed (in life and word) God's plan of redemption (cf. Eph. 3:8-12). That which appeared foolish to the Greek mind was actually wiser than all their "wisdom," and that which appeared weak to the Jewish mind was actually more powerful than any miraculous sign (1 Cor. 1:25).

(continued on page 4)

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Evelyn Wyatt was taken to the hospital in a lot of pain. She will be having some further testing done. Genifer Johnson is struggling with diverticulitis and infection. Becky Sheumaker was home sick. Also remember Ginny Hamby, Brenda Mask, 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, Joe Kozlesky, (Michelle Paulin's nephew) and Carla Chin (Zsazeli Enamorado's teacher).

Upcoming Events

Saturday November 4th: Ladies Day at the 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.

Sunday November 5th: Teacher Training Workshop from 2-5 p.m. This is the first workshop for our new material. All teachers scheduled for the Dec.-Feb. quarter should attend, all others are welcome.

Sunday November 5th: Fellowship In Service after evening services.

Nov. 10th-11th: Eagle Lake church of Christ Fifth Annual Central Florida Men's Retreat at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center.

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

Saturday November 11th: If you are interested in using the Bible to teach english on the internet, please join us for an informational brunch about the World English Institute in the fellowship hall from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more info see Kelcey Grimes.

Nov. 12th-15th: Our Fall Gospel Meeting with Steve Higginbotham

Time Change

Daylight Savings Time will end on this Sunday Nov. 5th. Please remember to change your clocks back an hour.

Visitors

Sophia Haymon, Monica Goode, Theresa Lee, Sarah Bauman, Peggy Richardson and Mildred and Marty Estrella



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** John McShane
Bobby Sheumaker **Assist** Tucker Sweeney

Sunday, November 5, 2017

9:30 A.M.
Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin
Greeters Tyler & Jessica Anderson
Att. Cards..... Ian/Quadarius
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wednesday, November 8th, 2017

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

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

Sunday, November 12, 2017

9:30 A.M.
Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Greeters Williams
Att. Cards..... Paul/Sebastian
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Phil Fife
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 08.....	\$4,847.23
Oct. 15.....	\$4,691.00
Oct. 22.....	\$4,652.46
Oct. 29.....	\$4,943.57
Contribution Average.....	\$5,352.04
2017 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,716.51

The Gospel Is God's Choice



The choice of God is inconsistent with the wisdom of the world (1 Cor. 1:26-28). The social elite do not usually answer God's call (1 Cor. 1:26 cf. Jas. 2:5). "Not many" implies that there were some, but not an abundance (cf. Mt. 19:23-24). Culture (i.e., "wise"), power (i.e., "mighty"), and birth (i.e., "noble") were said to be the claims to the first century aristocracy, but God uses people and plans that are contrary to human wisdom (cf. Isa. 55:8-9), sometimes just to show that His ways are by His power (2 Cor. 4:7). God powerfully uses the opposite from which human wisdom expects! God uses the nothings (i.e. "things which are not") to destroy ("bring to nothing") the somethings (i.e. "things which are mighty" cf. David and Goliath, Jesus and the world, etc.). We must never discount God's ways. Rather, let us stand with Christ in teaching and calling people back to God through the Gospel.

Conclusion

May we echo the sentiments of Paul, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). Whether from people in the first century or people today, we must not allow worldly wisdom to thwart our living and promoting the Gospel! ❤️ *Brian*



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 . . .



Coming Soon to South Florida Avenue
For the winter quarter, we will have a new Bible school curriculum. The training workshop will be **This Sunday, 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

Think souls! Let's Invite our friends and neighbors to church assemblies and/or to one-on-one Bible studies!



Pray for and encourage our young people as they work with this year's L2L program!



Why Do People Hardly Ever Forget To "Fall Back" and Come Early?

Have you ever noticed when daylight savings times begins, quite a few people will be late for church services or even miss the first hour, then sheepishly say they forgot to set their clocks forward, yet very rarely do people forget to set their clocks, then come early for church services when we go back to standard time? Why is that? Could it be we are not as focused as we should on worshipping God? "Purposing in our heart" does not just apply to the contribution, but all of our worship must be "in spirit," purposed from the heart, (Jn. 4:24). Let's love God and focus on His worship!