



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 44 October 31, 2023

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

### MINISTER

### 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)

### Find us on

YouTube & Facebook

### HOME OF

*Florida School of Preaching*  
since 1969

**Missionary - Huron, SD**  
*Casey & Emily Paulin*

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## Invite Your Family, Friends & Neighbors



# Spiritual Family Matters

SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FALL GOSPEL MEETING

NOVEMBER 12-15, 2023

### MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Monday Evening	7:00 PM
Tuesday Evening	7:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM



*Speaker:* TOMMY BROOKS

1807 S. Florida Avenue  
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Brother Brooks is from the Highland  
Heights church of Christ in Houston, Texas

# Israel's Place in God's Plan Salvation Is God's Choice (Part 1)

Brian R. Kenyon

Why is today's Israel hated so much by the world? Various possibilities exist. Among the top reasons are: (1) there is a misunderstanding of Old Testament Israel and the nation today that calls itself "Israel;" and (2) the anti-biblical world often groups Jews and Christians together by virtue of their being a major focus in the Bible, and with the Marxist philosophy of oppression permeating more and more of American culture, anything connecting with the Bible is seen as the "oppressor" that needs to be eliminated. One of the richest sections in the New Testament that shows Israel's place in God's plan is Romans 9–11. This article will deal with the major teaching in Romans 9 that shows God's place for Israel has already been determined by the historical track-record of God, showing that He alone gets to choose how mankind will be saved.

## Israel Failed to Accept the Gospel

Paul declared his "countrymen according to the flesh [Israel]" were spiritually lost (Rom. 9:1-2). Paul was so emotionally concerned about their damnation that if it were possible, he would sacrifice himself (as "accursed") for them to be saved (Rom. 9:3). Israel's lost condition was even more tragic because they had special blessings that should have assured their compliance to the Gospel when it came (Rom. 9:4-5 cf. Lk. 12:47-48). However, in a key passage to this discussion, Paul wrote, "For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham" (Rom. 9:6-7 cf. Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 5:6). Israel in Paul's day thought their very lineage made them "once God's people, always God's people," but even John the Baptist pointed out there is more to being God's people than physical bloodline, for "God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Mt. 3:7-10).

## God Has Always Chosen the Path of Salvation

Contrary to the first century Jewish idea that because they were specially chosen to be God's people they should always remain God's special people, Paul reminded them that salvation has always been God's choice. Paul detailed five avenues through which God exercised His sovereign right to chose salvation.

First, God's choice was proven by Isaac (Rom. 9:6-9). The promise of God did not fail, but Israel did! The promise was given first (Gen. 12:3); the law was added later (Gal. 3:19); and then the law was fulfilled and taken out of the way by Christ (Mt. 5:17; Rom. 8:3-4; Eph. 2:13-17; Col. 2:13-16). The promise was fulfilled in the Gospel (Gal. 3:16, 21-29). All Israelites are not children of the promise. To prove that a person is a physical decedent of Abraham proves absolutely nothing concerning salvation—the promise was through Isaac! Abraham was the father of several children (Gen. 16:4, 11; 25:1-2). Paul distinguished those children into two groups: (1) "of the flesh" were those born to Abraham naturally, but these had nothing to do with the fulfillment of the promise; and (2) "of the promise" were those born by eternal purpose and promise—these are Abraham's link to the seed line in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:16). God chose to limit His promise through Isaac. Who can object?

Second, God's choice was proven by Jacob (Rom. 9:10-13). Isaac had two sons of which a choice had to be made concerning the seed. The choice had nothing to do with those two sons' personal salvation, but this example was used to illustrate the principle of God's right to choose. Furthermore, the choice had nothing to do with their "worth" or birth right (Rom. 9:11). God chose Jacob (cf. Gen. 25:23). "Jacob I have loved ... Esau I have hated" has to do with selection of the promised seed rather than individual likeness. "Love / hate" means to favor one more than the other (Mt. 10:37-38). The choice concerns itself with the nations that came from the two sons and the role that each would play in the promise. God chose to limit His promise to Jacob. Who can object? *[To be continued]*

God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" 1 Timothy 2:4

## PRAYER LIST

**Current :** Dottie Fife is recuperating at home following a fall, Toney Wilson is having some medical issues and upcoming tests , Rachel Zapata has been sick at home, Amanda Faneuf is having pain in her arm and may need surgery, Jordan (grandson of Nancy Mitchell

**Continual:** Declan Potvin (eye); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melody Baxter (health), Melissa Craft (health) Charles Paulin (health) , Kathy Nester (health)

**Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French ,



**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK THIS WEEKEND**

Thank you my dear, dear family for all your prayers and acts of kindness while I was sick! I love you with all my heart. God is so good! I am so very thankful. God bless you! - Brenda Mask

Thankful Meal- The youth group will be having a Thankful Meal at the Daugherty's house on November 18 @ 6:00 PM. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite food with share. A sign up sheet is posted on Vince's office door.



FSOP Ladies Class : November 14 at 6:00 PM  
(notice the earlier time due to our Gospel Meeting)

Teacher Susan Stearsman

**KEPT** - John 17:12-19

**FALL FAMILY CAMP**  
JOSHUA 24:15  
NOV. 10-12TH, 2023  
WEEKI WACHEE CHRISTIAN  
CAMP  
SPRING HILL, FL  
REGISTER BY NOV. 3  
\$35 PER PERSON/AGES 4  
AND UNDER  
ARE FREE.  
SEE FLYER ON BULLETIN BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION!  
JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF PEACE AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!

Eagle Lake Church of Christ  
**MEN'S LECTURESHIP**

*fall teaches us that CHANGE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL*

**What Does it Mean to be A Champion**

Saturday, November 4th  
9:00 AM - 2:45 PM  
Breakfast will be served from 8:00 - 8:45 AM  
Lunch will be provided.

**Schedule**  
Lesson 1, Rusty Hilliard - 9:00 - 9:45  
How to become a Champion.  
Lesson 2, Dustin McClelland - 10:00 - 10:45  
King Josiah II Kings 22 - 23  
Lesson 3, Ronald Cox - 11:00 - 11:45  
Jochebed Exodus 2:11  
LUNCH ----- 12:00 - 1:00 PM  
Lesson 4, Forest Antemasaris - 1:00 - 1:45  
Barnabus Acts 4:11  
Lesson 5, Vince Daugherty - 2:00 - 2:45  
John Mark  
Closing remarks and Prayer

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder.....David Anderson

### Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Announcements.....Rick Kenyon  
Song Leader/prayer.....Tucker Sweeney  
Devotional.....Kurtis Leaks  
Prayer.....Paul Sweeney

### Sunday, November 5, 2023

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty  
A Centurian's Faith (Matt. 8:5-13)

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty  
Learning by Example (1 Cor. 10:1-13)

### Those to Serve

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Brian Kenyon  
Song Leader (**both services**).....David Williams  
Announcements(**both**).....Stacey Paulin  
Scripture reading/prayer.....Joseph Faulk  
Lord's Table (**both**).....Jeff Stewart  
Closing Prayer .....Kyle Bingle  
Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Anderson  
Greeters.....Payton S/Paul Sweeney  
Attendance cards (**both**).....Klark/Sawyer  
Sound Booth (**both**).....Jason Hendrix

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Andre Medley  
Closing Prayer.....Vince Daugherty  
Greeters PM.....Kenyon's

### Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson  
Song Leader/prayer.....Terrance Dindy  
Devotional.....Gospel Meeting  
Prayer.....Jarred Spivey

## Upcoming Events 2023

### November

4 Men's lectureship @ Eagle Lake  
7 Senior Saints meeting  
12 Elders and Deacons Meeting  
10-12 Fall Family Camp at Weeki Wachee Camp  
12-15 Fall Gospel Mtg at SFA- Tommy Brooks

### December

3 "Walk out of Darkness" event  
9 SFA Holiday Party

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 15	.....	\$8,265.00
Oct 22	.....	\$5,281.25
Oct 29	.....	\$11,432.00
Contribution Average	.....	\$6,985.13
Weekly budget	.....	\$7,410.00



LONGING FOR HOME

When Dave and I came to the USA from South Africa over 20 years ago it was one of the most exciting things we had ever done. It did not take long for reality to set in. I was not able to work for three years, money was short, the food was different, driving on the other side of the road was a challenge, no friends, the Florida humidity.

It was a culture shock to say the least. There were many times I felt so down and missed my family and familiarity of 'home'.

We were blessed to find a loving congregation who adopted us and helped us through the hard times. If it were not for these Christians, I'm not sure we would not have stayed in the USA. We have adjusted to life in America, we are citizens and this is home for us now.

However it makes me think that one day if we are faithful, we will go to a new eternal home. We won't have to worry about not knowing anyone or it being a strange place. We will know who our Father is and He will welcome us in. There will be no hunger, no tears, no death, no mourning or pain.

I can't wait to become a citizen of heaven and I hope you feel the same way too.

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." (Philippians 3:20-21)

Youth Section

Christian Apologetics

Intelligent Design

When you really look at our world you can stand in awe of the beauty. As far out as our solar system, and as small as the cell there is a perfect balance for the sustaining of life. For the atheist, he has no explanation of how our universe came into being. Further he has no answer for how life began in the encoded language of cells and DNA. Ultimately he must conclude dead rocks and dirt is his maker. However, he really does not believe that. If he found a perfectly functioning cell phone on the sidewalk without a cell phone maker anywhere around, he could still rightly conclude some intelligent being worked to make that cell phone. What about the intelligent Being who made the cell phone maker? Surely you don't believe that rocks and dirt is the intelligent being who made the intelligent being who made the cell phone. Hebrews 3:4 states, "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God." - VD

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Email us: [SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.

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

Return Service Requested

**"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made  
the heavens and the earth by your great  
power and outstretched arm. Nothing is  
too hard for you."  
jeremiah 32:17**



**If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.**