

Demonstrating Our Love

“I love you” is simply used in place of “good bye,” or “thank you,” or “see you later” or “I like what you did.” Saying “I love you” is not always the same as really loving. Let us learn from the best example, Jesus, in order to understand the key ingredient in loving others. In speaking of the great love Jesus had, Paul wrote, “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8, NKJ). The key word here is “demonstrates”! Jesus showed His love by sacrificing Himself for the object of His love, which is *all humanity*, including you and me! He sacrificed His very life, even for those who did not like Him! In what ways do we “demonstrate” our love to others? How do we show our love to our family? To our parents? To our friends? To our family in Christ? All of us must make sure we learn God’s word and put into action toward those we love by seeking their highest good, which, ultimately, will involve teaching and demonstrating the Gospel. “Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 Jn. 3:18). ❤️ *Brian*

We often use the words “I love you” without giving it much thought. That is, sometimes “I love you” is simply used in place of “good bye,” or “thank you,” or “see you later” or “I like what you did.” Saying “I love you” is not always the same as really loving. Let us learn from the best example, Jesus, in order to understand the key ingredient in loving others. In speaking of the great love Jesus had, Paul wrote, “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8, NKJ). The key word here is “demonstrates”! Jesus showed His love by sacrificing Himself for the object of His love, which is *all humanity*, including you and me! He sacrificed His very life, even for those who did not like Him! In what ways do we “demonstrate” our love to others? How do we show our love to our family? To our parents? To our friends? To our family in Christ? All of us must make sure we learn God’s word and put into action toward those we love by seeking their highest good, which, ultimately, will involve teaching and demonstrating the Gospel. “Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 Jn. 3:18). ❤️ *Brian*



Thanks for all our adult volunteers who are making sacrifices to help our youth group learn Acts!



South Florida Avenue
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



Sunday, November 10 --- L2L will meet following morning services. We will adjust the schedule from last time, but one thing will remain the same: if you would like to eat lunch at the building, bring a dish to share. We should be finished eating at 12:00 noon-ish. We will have a schedule for adult mentors ahead of time.

Friday, November 15 --- Our monthly youth group devotional and activity will be hosted by Stacey and Michelle Paulin. We thank all who help. Our young people are greatly benefitting from these activities!



Feb. 21-23, 2014 Forrest Park church of Christ in Valdosta will host **YES Weekend 2014**. The theme is **“Unmasked.”** Make plans now to be there!

This is My commandment, that you love one another. (Jn. 15:12)



...to **Nicole Dix** for volunteering to teach our 3rd thru 5th grade class! We appreciate her and all those who work with our young people!

Bettering the “Berean Bunch” Meetings

Beginning soon, we would like to have different men of the congregation take turns leading the “Berean Bunch” questions. Aside from helping our youth, this would be a great way for men of the congregation to “break the ice” to overcome fears of publicly serving and it would help us to better know and support each other! If you would like to help, please see Brian or Jason.

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 66 No.47 11-12 -13

ELDERS

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Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

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(863) 682-4702

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.

EMAIL

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Cents or Sense?

Paul Clements

We are coming up on a time of year when well-intentioned people often spend too much for gifts, etc. We need to have a proper perspective in this matter. Did you know you can hold a coin so close to your eye that you can't see anything but the coin? However, if you move the coin away from your eye, it becomes much "smaller" and the world around it becomes "larger." It is all a matter of perspective, and you determine that perspective.

It is also noteworthy that sometimes *things* become way too important to us, and we pass on that perspective to those around us (e.g., our children). We even let things come between God and us. Not good! In regard to proper perspective, money and possessions do not need to have first place in our lives. One writer said "getting all we can and canning all we get" can become an obsession. Nobody should be rebuked for being industrious and hardworking, but when the making and collecting of money and possessions becomes an end in itself, rather than a means to serve God and provide for our family, then we are holding the coin too close to our eye. It restricts our vision, our perspective.

The Bible says, "*the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith...*" (1 Timothy 6:10). Notice the passage does not say "*money is the root of all kinds of evil,*" but rather the love of money is the problem. One does not have to have a lot of money to love it. Could this qualify as covetousness? Covetousness is the inordinate desire to have something. So yes, the love of money could fall into the category of covetousness. To covet is a sin (Colossians 3:5). Have you ever heard of anyone confessing to be guilty of the sin of covetousness? Rarely, if ever have I heard such. I guess none of us have a problem with this sin.

Yet, we hear children of God who think money, talk money and live money. We see members of the church who forsake their spiritual responsibilities, forsake the assembly, neglect their families or destroy their health for money. Yet, nobody has a problem with covetousness, right?

This ought to make us think, huh? Remember, "*for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21). Take care to beware.

What Makes God Cry?

Jerry Bates

We are all familiar with death. We are all too familiar with the sadness and grief associated with the loss of a dear loved one in this life. We must never forget that God is concerned with our sorrow. In John 11:35, we find the shortest verse in the Bible, which simply says, "*Jesus wept.*" This is a short verse with much meaning. This one verse shows the humanity of Jesus in such a tender way. Jesus as God in the flesh is deeply touched by the sorrow he sees exhibited by Mary and Martha in the loss of their beloved brother Lazarus. Sometimes, we wonder why Jesus is weeping when He knows that Lazarus will live again very shortly. Most likely, He is weeping out of a sympathetic heart for the sadness He sees in the hearts of His dear friends. This is in contrast to the pagan conception of gods, who are not touched with the feelings and infirmities of man. Their gods may weep for themselves, but in their legends, they neither weep for man nor do they sympathize with man. This verse should clearly remind us that God is still there for us even in the greatest of tragedies.

I believe that a more important point needs to be made along this line. We normally think that the greatest loss and the greatest grief that can be experienced by man is the loss of a loved one due to death. I agree that indeed, it is a deep loss, and it is right and proper that we mourn and weep over the death of a loved one. While we see Jesus weeping over the death of Lazarus, this is not the strongest kind of weeping. In the Greek, the word translated "wept" in John 11:35 means to shed tears or to weep silently. Thus, we see that while Jesus was certainly weeping, it was not the loud wailing that we often associate with death.

There is a stronger word for weeping that means to sob or weep aloud. This is the strongest word for weeping in the Greek language and is used only one time regarding to our Lord. It is found in Luke 19:41, "*Now as he drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.*" On this occasion, Jesus was descending from the Mount of Olives from which there is a magnificent view of the whole city of Jerusalem. Jesus knew what was going to happen to the city, but He also knew that it was unnecessary. The citizens of Jerusalem could have been saved if they had only turned to Jesus and God, but they refused. Even while Jesus was speaking these words, the Jewish leaders were looking for a way to kill Jesus while not arousing the anger of the people. As the commentator William Barclay aptly wrote, "The tears of Jesus are the tears of God when He sees the needless pain and suffering in which men involve themselves through their foolish rebellion against His will." The significant point of this is that while God is concerned with any grief of His people, it seems that God is most deeply grieved for the spiritual loss and the needless suffering of His people.

I especially appreciate the picturesque language used in Matthew's account of this occasion. Matthew wrote in 23:37, "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*" There used to be a TV commercial depicting a Native American Indian sitting on a horse looking over a polluted world. Tears were streaming down his face as he viewed the horrible scene. I imagine a similar scene in this passage in Matthew. You can see the tears in Jesus' eyes and hear the pain in His voice as He utters these words and views the sinful and spiritually polluted city of Jerusalem.

The greatest loss of man is not physical death or destruction, but the loss of our souls. God sent His Son to prevent that, but far too often men today are just like the people of Jerusalem in the long ago. They could be saved, but they are not willing. We greatly grieve over the loss of a family member or material possessions, but we seem to care little over the possible loss of our souls. That is a loss, which undoubtedly grieves God beyond our comprehension, and to make the loss even sadder is the fact that it is all unnecessary. It does not have to happen! It can all be avoided if man will simply turn to Jesus and His word. Will you not decide to obey Jesus today?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Sharon Washington is in LRMC, room M616 with a blood clot in her leg. Darlene thompson will be having tests soon. Joyce Burbage, Sam Bolding, Faith West, Ann Howard, Louise Starks, Jacquelin Dopwell, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Dorothy Trice, Carl Thompson, Lewis Tillis, Darnell & Jane Kirkland & Annie Beth Coone.

Shut In Members: Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

Others: Lewis Tillis is hopeful that his cancer is shrinking. Graham McDonald, Michael Ray. Christina Fuessner, Steve Roberts, Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendricks, Kathy Peel, Marie Platzer & Danny Edmonds.

Upcoming Events

Nov 3rd - Nov. 7th - Gospel meeting at Sixth Street Church of Christ. Speaker is Edward Keaton. Time of services are at 7:30 pm. **See Bulletin board for more information on the above event.**

Nov. 10th - Lads to Leaders will meet following the morning services.

Nov. 15th - Youth Devotion and Fellowship at the home of Stacey and Michelle Paulin.

Nov. 16th - Men's Breakfast at Central Church of Christ in Haines City at 8:00 am.

Dec 7th - The "Ladies Brunch" will be here at S. Fla. Ave. at 9:00 am.

Visitors

Suzy Adkins, Joe Carroll, Fran Hinson, Floyd & Shirley Laudermilk.

Hither, Thither & Yon

Several of our members are traveling at this time. Please keep them in your prayers, as well as the men and women who are serving in the military.

*A problem not worth praying about isn't worth worrying about.
As long as teachers give tests, there will be prayer in school!.*

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS



This Week's Message
"Carry A Bible"

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

Sunday, November 10, 2013
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 Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

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

Wed. November 13, 2013

Song Leader Stephen Hunley
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Closing Prayer Jeremy Padilla

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857

November 17, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jason Hendrix
Prayer Charles Sanford

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Charles Sanford
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin
Greeters The Padilla Family
Att. Cards Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wed. November 20, 2013

Song Leader Jeremy Padilla
Opening Prayer Stephen Hunley
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Oct. 13 \$3,508.50
Oct. 20 \$3,236.13
Oct. 27 \$3,932.10
Nov. 03 \$5,015.98
Contribution Average \$4,153.56
Weekly Budget \$4,255.13
2013 Contribution Deficit \$5,200.41