



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 45 November 9, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
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Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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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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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

Though He Slay Me, Yet Will I Trust In Him

(Job 23:10) Pt. 3 - How Can I Come Forth As Gold?

Joshua Cantrell

Job was gold before his trials came. Some mistakenly believe that the trials of Job turned him into gold. This is not true. When gold is mined from the earth, it is already gold. Fire does not turn metals into gold; rather, it removes impurities from gold.

When we open the book of Job, a description is given of the man. As one reads through the book, the description should not be forgotten. "There was a man from the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And these was born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand yoke of oxen, and five hundred she donkey's, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every on his day; and send and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, it may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. This did Job continually. (Job 1:1-5)."

Several things stand out about Job: (1) He walked with God. Job is described as a perfect and upright man. Noah is similarly described (Gen. 6:9). One who is perfect and upright; one who is just is gold, if you will. (2) He honored God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 1:7). Job feared God. (3) He loved his family. The greatness of Job is not measured in livestock and beasts. Note his children are listed first, and then we are told his substances also were great. (4) Job prayed to God. He thought about the spiritual well-being of his family, and he sacrificed and prayed for them constantly. (5) He valued God. It might be that they had sinned; this was the concern of Job. He did not want the relationship between God and his family hampered by sin. Job 1:5 ends by telling us, thus did Job continually. Trials do not make us gold; they reveal what kind of metal we are.

How Can I Become Gold?

If it is the case that one must be gold in order to come forth through trials as gold, how can one become gold? The simple answer is one must obey God under whatever law he lives with God. Today, the Law of Christ is what all men are required to follow. Jesus tells us that we must obey His gospel in order to be changed or made new (Mark. 16:15-16).

The way to become gold then for our analogy is to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are changed through the process of being saved. We must hear and learn of God (John 6:44-45). We must believe in Jesus (John 8:24). Faith according to scripture comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17) and without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Those who hear and believe must repent; that is, they must change their mind and manner of life. Jesus states that is we do not repent, we will perish (Luke. 13:3-5). When one hears, and believes, and repents, he must confess the name of Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10). Christianity is not a private or secret religion; it is public profession of a life being given to God. We confess him and he will confess us (Mat. 10:32-33). Finally, in order to be changed, one must submit to being immersed in water for the remission of sins. This is what the first hearers of the gospel were told (Acts. 2:37-38). It fittingly emulates our Savior's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4). Paul also refers to it as the operation of God (Col. 2:12). By being in Christ, one becomes a new creature or creation (2 Cor. 5:17). In baptism our sins are forgiven; we are added to the body of Christ (Gal. 3:27). We are saved (1 Pet. 3:21) and our consciences are cleared.

We Must Grow So We Can Glow

When gold is purified, the dross is removed and the metal shines through. The refiner does not make the gold; he removes impurities from the gold. The Scriptural equivalent is growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (2 Pet. 3:18). Or as Paul states, we must be sanctified, so we can become meet for the master's use. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the dust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God. That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (1 The. 4:3-7)."

He also said something very similar to Timothy (2 Tim. 2:19-22). In both passages, the individuals had been saved; thus in some sense, they were sanctified or set apart (1 Cor. 1:2). However, Paul addresses the need to continue to grow or mature. God has called us to holiness because we are saved. If a man will purge himself, he will be a vessel of honor sanctified and meets for the master's use. This is said to a faithful gospel preacher. Coming through the trials and shining forth like gold is the result of already being in the process of refining one's self. We would all do well to heed the exhortation, to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. We should all prove ourselves to know whether Christ is in us lest we are shown to be reprobate (2 Cor. 13:5).

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Perception vs. Reality

In Genesis 39, Joseph found himself in a difficult situation. He was a servant in a far-off county who was being sought after by his master's wife. She was so forward that she tried to grab Joseph by his robe, but he resisted to the point he had to leave his robe behind to flee. Imagine the scene when Potipher came home to see Joseph's robe in his wife's hand, and her story about Joseph trying to take advantage of her. It seemed like a bad situation for Joseph. Perception is how things seem to be. In reality, Potipher's wife was lying to her husband and Joseph was innocent. It would have been easier for Joseph to go along with Potipher's wife, but it would have been a sin before God and Potipher. Instead of lying, he stayed true to his master and his God. For that, he was cast into prison. It may have seemed like doing the right thing did not pay off for Joseph, but God was still with Joseph. In due time, God exalted Joseph to the second in command of all of Egypt, where he would be in a position to save his whole family during a great famine.

Conclusion

Job came forth as gold because he had already given his life to God. When the trials came, he was purified. This is the simple solution to coming through life's trials. Job suffered the loss of money, children, and his health. He came out of his trials like gold because he was gold before he went in. He had a scriptural view of God. He believed God would listen to him and help him. He knew God knew him; thus, he was confident in his life. He continued to serve God faithfully — before, during, and after his trials. Job's sentiment about God, should be ours as well. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him," (Job 13:15).

SENIOR SAINTS

by John McShane

Due to a printing error, the following information was left out of last week's article.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS FROM EXODUS/ COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Have no gods before me v.3 - 1 Cor 4:8, Acts 14:15*
- Make no graven images v.4 - Acts 17:29*
- Do not take the name of God in vain v.7 - Mat 6:9*
- Honor they father and mother v.12 - Eph 6:2*
- Do not kill v.13 - Rom 13:9, Rev 21:8*
- Do not commit adultery v.14 - Rom 13:9, Heb 13:4*
- Do not steal v.15 - Rom 13:9, Eph 4:28*
- Do not bear false witness v.16 - Rom 13:9, Eph 4:25*
- Do not covet v.17 - Rom 13:9, Col 3:5*

The only one of the ten commandments given to Moses and not specially mentioned in the new testament is to keep the sabbath day holy. This week let's examine "have no gods before Me". Is there anything or anyone in our world today that could be considered a false god? My view is that almost everything in our world can become a false god if we let it. If it comes between us and the God of heaven then it is a false god. Whether it be money, sports, a hobby, a job, or a drug, anything that we care more about than the God of heaven, it becomes a false god. We know that many false preachers in our world use the God of heaven to advance their own beliefs, and they become false gods to their many blind followers. Mark 10:21 gives a good example of a false god. In that verse, Jesus tells a rich young man what he must do to gain eternal life, "And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, 'You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.'" In verse 22, we read of his response, "And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." We must constantly be on our guard to ensure that no false god comes between us and the only living and true God.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Carol Edmonson - health
 Bernetta Green - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Kathy Nester - eye surgery
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Flo Duffy - eye problems
 Janie Wise - health
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg
 Katrina Greene - knee replacement
 Virginia Walker - sprained muscles

Recent requests:

Wayne Shearer - PET scan

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer
Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down.

Updates & Prayer requests

Wayne Shearer is having a scan on Thursday due to recent test results. Please keep him and Anita in prayer.

Dorothea Lauther made it safely to Jamaica and will be there for a few months.

Stacey Wilson had knee replacement surgery last Thursday. It went well.

Marcella Swain requests prayer for strength in her personal life.

Annette Philip is out of the hospital and home recovering.

Virginia Walker and **Jeanelle Thrower** are still experiencing pain from recent injuries.

Thank you for visiting

Leah Lobban Brandi Brown
 Albert Bess
 Shirley Loudermilk
 Dawn Sutton



Pantry item request:
BOTTLED WATER

To be used for a service project:
 handing out water to participants of

Walk Out of Darkness 5K - Suicide Prevention & Awareness
 If you'd like to help, please see Rick Kenyon



PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annette Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - health
 Darlene Thompson - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - home recovering
 Stacey Wilson - knee replacement

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Announcements Stacey Paulin
 Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, November 14, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Robby Eversole
 "The Church Purchased at Calvary"
 Acts 20:28; Luke 23:33

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Robby Eversole
 "The Church is Not a Denomination"
 Ephesians 4:4-6

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Phil Fife
 Greeter Stewart
 Song/prayer before class Brian Kenyon
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Alex Parramore
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

Greeters E&C Smith
 P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Devo David Williams
 Closing Prayer Wayne Shearer

Upcoming Events

November

12 - Youth group bonfire
 14 - Elders, deacons, preachers mtg, 4pm
 14-17 Fall gospel mtg
 16 - FSOP Ladies class, 7p
 17 - Senior Saints trip
 19 - Thankful meal, 6pm
 20 - Men's breakfast at SFA, 9am

December

1 - Quarterly challenge
 4 - Youth group caroling & parties
 5 - Service project
 12 - L2L workday
 18 - Wreaths Across America



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 24 \$5,088.94
 Oct 31 \$8,024.00
 Nov 7 \$6,818.00
 Contribution Average \$6,942.60

When a baby is born, he's cleaned up and left on his own, right? No! He's nurtured, fed, taught, and corrected, encouraged, and loved so he will grow & mature physically, emotionally, & intellectually. To leave a newborn alone and expect him to survive on his own, even in the most perfect scenario, is ludicrous! The child will die in a short time.

When a person is born again (John 3:3-5), he mustn't be left on his own either (Matt. 28:19-20). The same care and nurturing must take place with this newborn Christian so he can grow spiritually (2 Peter 3:18; Eph. 4:14-15). To believe that once he's born again and left to survive with a stagnant knowledge (Heb. 5:13-14; Eph. 3:19), a feeble body (Eph. 4:15-16), and without continuous care (John 13:34-35), even in the most perfect scenario, is ludicrous!

Spiritual death occurs every time (Mark 4:16-19).

Once saved is not always saved!

"And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." Jude 22-23

Christ's Church and Salvation

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

invites you to our

Fall Gospel Meeting

November 14 - 17, 2021

Each sermon of the gospel meeting will be streamed live and can be accessed on our website or YouTube channel



Robby Eversole

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

"BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS, WHO COME TO YOU IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING BUT INWARDLY ARE RAVENOUS WOLVES "

Matthew 7:15