



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 45 November 10, 2020

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

### MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

### SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

### OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

### 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.

### EMAIL

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

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

### 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.

## *Lamentations: Jeremiah's Poem of Sorrow* Hiram Kemp

The book of Lamentations is the darkest in the Old Testament. The prophets often have a word of warning for God's people, but Lamentations tells us what happens when those warnings go unheeded (Jer. 7:25). Many times, Lamentations is viewed in connection with the book of Jeremiah since he is believed to be the author of both books. Jeremiah was a prophet to God's people in the days when Josiah was king (Jer. 1:1). His prophecy came as the people were entrenched in idolatry (cf. Jer. 2:4-13). After God's people had received and rejected His warnings repeatedly, He sent them to Babylon for seventy years of captivity just like He promised (Jer. 25:7-11). Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet because of the emotional sorrow he expressed over the people's condition (Jer. 13:17). He wanted the people to repent so ruin and destruction would not be their end, yet the people chose to reject his counsel (cf. Jer. 6:16, 18:5-13).

Jeremiah wrote Lamentations as a poem of sorrow as the people were being taken captive by the Babylonians, and the city of Jerusalem was being destroyed (see 2 Kings 25 and Jeremiah 52). In these five chapters, we are privileged to see into the heart of one of God's servants as he expresses love, disappointment, and hope for God's people. Lamentations is a book of real and raw emotions which teaches us, as God's people, there is a time to weep (Eccl. 3:4; Rom. 12:15). However, the book also reveals to us that even in the darkest days of our lives, God is good. We have reason to hope, and for the child of God, the best days are yet to come.

### *Hands Filled With Sin*

Jeremiah speaks plainly concerning the reason for Judah's captivity. Judah had sinned grievously, and she became filthy (Lam. 1:8, ESV). As Judah chose to turn away from God, she did not consider how these things would ultimately turn out; her fall was terrible (Lam. 1:9). The sins that God's people were willfully engaged in were bound to them like a yoke (Lam. 1:14). The people were being afflicted because of their own transgressions (Lam. 1:22). Though the people of Zion were once worth their weight in gold and shined brightly, the consequences of sin caused them to lose their luster (Lam. 4:1-2).

Sin is sometimes pleasurable, but the pleasure never lasts (cf. Heb. 11:25). The southern kingdom of Judah foolishly believed they could live in opposition to God and never face punishment. Our sins always find us out (Num. 32:23). Even if we think we can escape the judgment of our sins in this life, it will follow us into eternity (2 Cor. 5:10). The people in Jerusalem had their hands defiled through perpetual engagement with sin (cf. Isa. 59:3). Jeremiah lamented and wept because the multitude of Judah's transgression had finally caught up to her (Lam. 1:5). Since the people of Zion stretched out their hands to sin, when they eventually stretched out their hands for mercy, God refused to send relief (Lam. 1:17, 2:8). Christians must not use their members as instruments of unrighteousness but instead in service to God (Rom. 6:13). Jerusalem had fallen fast because she listened to false prophets instead of God's true spokesmen (Lam. 2:14). As other nations saw and heard of the destruction, they would say, "Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?" (Lam. 2:15, ESV).

## Eyes Filled With Tears

In keeping with the name of the book, Lamentations records many times of Jeremiah weeping as he is saddened by the downfall of the city. One key indication of whether or not we truly love God is how we respond when things are not right with His people. Jeremiah was appalled at some who seemed to show little to no emotion over the destruction of the city (Lam. 1:12). As Jerusalem laid in ruins, tears streamed down the face of Jeremiah because his enemies were triumphant while God's people suffered a comfortless tragedy (Lam. 1:16). Some of the people of Judah wept because all the nations they trusted forsook them in the day of trouble (Lam. 1:2). In rich poetic language, Jeremiah described the awful situation of the people and the grief that accompanied their heartache (Lam. 2:1-22).

Hebrew scholars have long pointed out that Lamentations is an acrostic in Hebrew. Every chapter (except for chapter 3) has 22 verses. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Each verse in chapters 1, 2, and 4 begins with a new letter of the alphabet and follows through until the end. You could say that Jeremiah wept from A to Z in his native language over his people's sin. He would not be the last faithful servant of God to weep over God's people. The Messiah would be a Man of sorrow and One acquainted with grief (Isa. 53:3). Jesus wept over Jerusalem as He knew she would again be destroyed in the days following His ascension (Luke 19:41). Paul wept as he warned others about false teachers and their eventual ruin (Acts 20:31; Phil. 3:18-19). Lamentations shows us that as people suffer the consequences for their sins, the proper response for God's people is to lament. We should not rejoice as people's lives are ruined through terrible choices, but rather we must be heartbroken as people refuse to turn to the God who loves them. We should be known as people who will warn others of God's coming wrath for the impenitent and those who weep when God's grace is refused.

### **YOUTH GROUP** by Vince Daugherty

#### **How can children be about the Father's business?**

Jesus gives children a great example of how they can be about their Heavenly Father's business even at a young age. Luke 2:49 says when they found Jesus, He was "sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking questions."

**#1** Children can be sitting amongst the teachers. As a young person, I want to make it to every Bible study I can attend.

**#2** Children can be listening. Being in the right place does not guarantee learning and growth will happen. Learning and growth happen when children participate in listening.

**#3** Children can ask questions. Jesus told His disciples not to hinder the children from coming to Him. He said, "for such is the kingdom of heaven."

At a young age, it is harder to try to reign in all the questions children have, but woe to those who stifle a young person's zeal. Allow children to ask questions. Engage with them. Woe to those who cause a little one to stumble. Jesus said it would be best if a millstone was tied around that person's neck and to be thrown into the sea (Matt. 18:6).

## Heart Filled With Hope

Directly in the middle of a book filled with suffering, death, and devastation is a message of hope. In perhaps the most memorable verses in the book, Jeremiah reminds readers: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end" (Lam. 3:22). God's love toward His people is elsewhere described as an everlasting love (cf. Jer. 31:3). What Jeremiah emphasizes in the middle of his poem of Lament is that God still loves His people. God does not change even when His people do (Mal. 3:6). He was faithful to His promises made to Abraham and David, and He would redeem a remnant so the Savior could enter the world (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; 2 Sam. 7:12-16).

God's mercies are new each morning, and His faithfulness is great (Lam. 3:23). Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Psa. 30:5). In the night, which was the Babylonian captivity, God's people could be comforted by the fact that morning was coming. God is the God of second chances and fresh starts (Heb. 8:12). He is willing to restore what our sins caused Him to destroy (cf. Joel 2:25). Jeremiah describes the Lord as his portion and his reason for hope (Lam. 3:24). Do those words describe you? Do those words describe me? Jeremiah's point is though his beloved city is on fire and the temple has been ransacked, he had his God and his God was enough. Jeremiah could see through tear-dimmed eyes that God was present and that God was still good (Psa. 136:1). Lamentations is a book of darkness, destruction, and demolition but not complete despair. Jeremiah knew that God must punish but does not delight in doing so. All hope was not lost because God longs to pardon and forgive. Jeremiah's hope can be summed up with these words: "For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men" (Lam. 3:31-33)!

### **Senior Saints** by John McShane

We continue with our study of things we need to shed. Today, we look at lying. A simple definition of lying is "To make an untrue statement with intent to deceive." It appears that often people in this world find it is much easier to tell a lie to avoid facing the hard truth that they face. Perhaps the worst part of lying is when we lie to ourselves when we are faced with things that do not appeal to us or we want to avoid. There is much in God's word relative to lying, and none of them are complimentary. Biblical references include the appearance of the words "liar" and "liars" over 20 times. There is no reference in the Bible about "little white lies." God does not tolerate lying, and we put our souls in jeopardy when we do. Proverbs 6:16 states that God hates a lying tongue. Verse 19 also says God hates a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. Lying should not be a part of one's life.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt  
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt  
 Darlene Thompson  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Ciera Edwards  
 Kathy Nester  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Joyce Williams  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask  
 Linda McShane  
 Bernetta Green  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Brian Smith  
 Jim Turner  
 Annette Phillip  
 Ron & Judy Ford

Carol Edmonson  
 Stacey Wilson  
 Ray Nashick  
 Melody Baxter  
 Geny Johnson  
 Margaret Coone  
 George Davis

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason  
 Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Judy Ford** had gallbladder surgery on Tuesday morning at Lakeland Regional. She is now in a room.

**Ron Ford** is awaiting results on recent tests.

**Barbara Jones** requests prayers for good results for upcoming tests.

Justin Slaten, **Denise Gulizia's** youngest son, was in an accident last Friday and suffered a traumatic brain injury. He is in the Trauma ICU at Lakeland Regional.

**Caelen Bailey** has tested positive for Covid. The whole family is now quarantined at home.

## RESPONSES

**Marcella Swain** responds repenting of sins and would like prayers. She also requests prayers for relief from her migraines that are hindering her attendance.

## BIBLE TRIVIA ON KAHOOT!

Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Ask Vince for details.

## Thank you

Thank you cards from **Jeff & Ingrid Stewart** and from **Brenda Mask** are on the bulletin board.

## 5th Sunday Collection

November 29th is the 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund. If you would like to give additional funds, there are designated envelopes in the foyer. Please place it in the collection plate. You can also mail or bring your contribution to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Johnny Singh  
 Devo ..... Gavin Williams  
 Closing Prayer ..... Edward Atkins

### Sunday, November 15, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
 "What Everyone Must Believe About the Bible"  
*Psalm 19:7-11*

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
 "All the Things Women Can Do"  
*1 Timothy 2:11-15*

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) ..... David Deal  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Johnny Singh  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Lord's Table ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr.  
 Closing Prayer ..... Lou Van Allen

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Andre Medley  
 Lord's Table ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr.  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

### Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Devo ..... **GOSPEL MEETING**  
 Closing Prayer ..... Brian Kenyon

### ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

**The City of Lakeland discontinued their mandatory face mask mandate on Oct. 5. However, to side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.**

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.

Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 25 ..... \$5,484.00  
 Nov. 1 ..... \$8,422.75  
 Nov. 8 ..... \$7,660.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$7,148.95



At this time of uncertainty, with the Coronavirus raging in our country, racial dissension, riots, and immorality, it would be so wonderful to have peace in our lives.

Isaiah 9: 6-7 reads: "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government of peace, there will be no end."

In 1875, Edward Bickersteth wrote the beautiful hymn "Peace Perfect Peace." When we read all the verses of this song, it might help us realize that Christ is our perfect peace. Ephesians 2:14 says that Christ is our peace. We need to pray for peace, not only for ourselves but also for our country.

**Personal Evangelism**  
**SEMINAR**  
**NOVEMBER 16-19**

**TRAINING THE SAVED TO TEACH THE LOST**

**MONDAY, NOV. 16**

6:30 PM: Let's Get Motivated

7:30 PM: Let's Stay with the Message

**TUESDAY, NOV. 17**

11:30 AM: Why Some Don't Obey the Gospel

12:30 AM: What About My Family

6:30 PM: Let's Talk About the Manner

7:30 PM: Let's Apply The Model

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18**

11:30 AM: What about my Baptism

12:30 AM: What About Instrumental Music

6:30 PM: Let's Make the Application

7:30 PM: Lesson 1: Back to the Authority of the Bible

**THURSDAY, NOV. 19**

6:30 PM: Lesson 2: Back to the Church of the Bible

7:30 PM: Lesson 3: Back to the Salvation of the Bible

[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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

Find us on social media



**"PURSUE PEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE, AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD**

*HEBREWS 12:14*

**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested