

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

What Jesus Teaches Us About Temptation

Hiram Kemp

Whenever we make-up our minds to do the right thing, there will always be temptations to compromise and go in the wrong direction. It sometimes seems as if the moment someone decides to go on a diet, there will be advertisement for that person's favorite unhealthy meal displayed everywhere. When a young person chooses to walk in the light and remove bad influences from his or her life, those old friends will call and text with more fervor and frequency than ever before. James assures us that the temptation we face does not come from God (Jas. 1:13). Furthermore, every person is tempted, and temptation occurs when our passions and lusts are not properly addressed (Jas. 1:14). If our temptation is not properly addressed it, will lead to sin and our sin will lead to spiritual death (Jas. 1:15). Thankfully, we are not left to ourselves as to how we need to approach temptation. Jesus was tempted in every way we are, and he overcame temptation without committing a sin (Heb. 4:15). The more we can study the way the devil approached Jesus and how he defeated those temptations, the better equipped we will be to overcome temptation in our own lives.

Properly Managing Our Diet

After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights the devil approached him, knowing that He was hungry (Mt. 4:1-2). He challenges Jesus' identity by saying, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Mt. 4:3). Jesus informs Satan, that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God (Mt. 4:4 cf. Deut. 8:3). Jesus was not going to use his miraculous ability as the Son of God for his own selfish advantage (Mt. 3:17). Unlike the children of Israel, who allowed hunger to frustrate them in the wilderness and led them to speak out against God, Jesus was master of his appetite (Exod. 16:1-3). According to Jesus, the most important meal of the day is one's intake of Scripture.

To overcome the temptations we will face, we must prioritize our Bible study and the need to feed on the word of God. Jeremiah is said to have eaten God's words (Jer. 15:16). The Psalmist claimed that God's words were sweeter than honey to his lips (Psa. 119:103). It is not enough to read the Bible or even study it deeply on certain occasions. We must see it as more necessary than our physical food (Job 23:12). Satan knows that he is no match for the word of God and that if he can get us to put other things before the Bible, we will be more (*continued on page 2*)

likely to give in to temptation. As much attention as we give to our diet concerning physical food, we need to give more detail to our diet concerning spiritual food. Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it (Ezra 7:10). A heart unprepared to seek God's word will be unprepared for the temptations that will inevitably come. Jesus highlights for us the need to use the word of God when faced by temptation. Jesus responds to all three of Satan's advances in the wilderness temptation by going back to what the Bible says. Managing our diet is a good way to defeat temptation that would otherwise slay us. The more Bible we know, the more we can know God's will for our lives and respond correctly to those things that are inconsistent with God's will.

Never Put God to the Test

Satan does not give up easily. Satan takes Jesus on the pinnacle of the temple and quotes Psalm 91:11-12 as justification for Jesus' jumping off the temple and His expecting to be rescued by angels. While Psalm 91 does speak of God's security and protection for his people, it is not meant to give God's people a license to tempt him and put his love to the test. Though the devil quoted Scripture, he did not handle the word of truth properly (2 Tim. 2:15). We should be careful not to use the Bible to justify our wrong behavior. More than knowing what a verse says, we must also strive to learn what a verse truly teaches in context. Jesus responds by saying, "It is written, You will not tempt the Lord your God" (Mt. 4:7 cf. Deut. 6:16). Jesus knew that God should not be pushed and tempted. God will provide for his people, but God does not need to be put under a trial test.

Many times, Christians succumb to temptation because we want to test the boundaries. The Christian life is not about how close we can get to the edge of sin without actually giving in. We should try and stay as far away as we can from sin because we know the dangers of it (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23). God has promised to forgive all our sins for which we repent, confess, and forsake (Prov. 28:13; Heb. 8:12; 1 Jn. 1:9). However, just because God is described as forgiving and loving, we must never use that as justification for sinning and jumping off of the "pinnacles of life" (Rom. 6:1). Temptation can be overcome. We must realize that we should not leap into sin and tempt God with the expectation that God will forgive us anyway. If we willfully engage in sin after coming to a knowledge of the truth and trample the blood of Jesus, there is no second sacrifice available to forgive our sins (Heb. 10:26). If we appreciate the blessing of God's forgiveness and his grace and realize that God is never to be put to the test, we will reject the advances of temptation more often. God is both good and severe (Rom. 11:22). We must fight against the idea that we can do whatever we want, and God will be waiting on us with open arms. Jesus shows us that we have a responsibility to practice self-control and have a respect for God and his promise to protect us.

Only Worship God

The last thing Satan tries is to get Jesus to worship him in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world (Mt. 4:8-9). Satan is a liar and could never deliver such a promise as that (Jn. 8:44). Moreover, Jesus is the maker and owner of every kingdom in the world already (Col. 1:15-17). Jesus says you will worship God and only serve him (Mt. 4:10 cf. Deut. 6:13). If we want to overcome temptation, we must grab hold of this truth spoken by Jesus in the devil's last-ditch effort to tempt Him. Only God is worthy of our worship and adoration. If we set our sights lower than that, the devil can buy us off fairly cheap. As long as we focus on heavenly things and the beauty and glory of our God, Satan and temptation's temporary pleasures are no match for our heavenly affections (Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 11:25). Jesus knew that all the things Satan promised Him were not worth surrendering the worship that only God deserves (Jn. 4:23-24).

Conclusion

Adam was in the Garden surrounded by food, companionship, and a great atmosphere, yet he still gave in to temptation. Jesus was in a wilderness, alone, without food, yet he was able to overcome temptation. We learn from this that one's environment is not nearly as important as one's resolve to please God and maintain a proper relationship with him. It is not a sin to be tempted. We will face temptation. However, God provides a door of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). We simply need to look for it. May we mirror the life of Jesus and overcome the temptation that desperately wants to ensnare us (Heb. 12:1-2).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Johnson is scheduled to have hernia surgery on Nov. 13th; Wayne Shearer; Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Bill Long, Kristen Cox (migraines), Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Thomas Daniel Martin (Darlene Thompson's grandson, RSV & bronchitis), Paulisky Irizarry (Jagie's brother), Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Bobby Cole, (Linda McShane's brother who has cancer), Joy Perkins (Brenda Mask's niece who was in a serious accident), Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding, Tonya Mathis, Connie Jordan, Maureen Nichols, and Sandy Given (former member), Mike Floyd (member at Laura St. having heart problems),

Upcoming Events

Saturday Nov. 16th: Youth Group Thankful Meal, 6:30 p.m., at the Parramore's. Bring your favorite dish to share and Bible for devo.

Saturday Nov. 17th: Men's Breakfast at Central church of Christ in Haines City at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Nov. 17th: 13th Annual Teen Progressive Dinner starting at Lemon Bay church of Christ at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday Nov. 17th: Group will leave for Tallahassee at 8:00 a.m. to help with hurricane disaster relief. Meet at the building at 7:30 a.m. to load supplies into vehicles. Breakfast will be provided.

Sunday November 18th: North Jackson Ave. church of Christ in Bartow will be having their 91st Homecoming starting at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday Nov. 20th: Senior Saints meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 25th: Teacher Training meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Friday Nov. 30-Dec. 2: Concord St. church of Christ Science & Bible Seminar with Kyle Butt.

Address Update

There is a new address for Chuck and Evelyn Wyatt
1001 Carpenters Way; Lakeland, FL 33809

Directory Updates

The new directory will be printed soon. If you have not had your picture taken or want your picture updated, please see Michelle or Dee as soon as possible.

Church Office

The office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 22nd & Friday., Nov. 23rd for the holiday

Visitors

Mary Moore, Jerry Green, Margaret Khoury, Eric Bunch, Pam Share

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

Nov 18.....	McShane
Nov 25.....	Kemp
Dec 02.....	Kemp
Dec 09.....	Kenyon

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Alex Parramore Table John McShane
Bobby Sheumaker Assist Tucker Sweeney

Sunday, November 18, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Casey Paulin
10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson
Sound Booth Phil Fife

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson
Sound Booth Phil Fife
Greeters Fifes
Att. Cards Antonio/Paul
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

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

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, November 25, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer CJ Grimes
10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sound Booth Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sound Booth Casey Paulin
Greeters Faneufs
Att. Cards Colby/Sawyer
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 21.....	\$9,274.06
Oct. 28.....	\$5,776.95
Nov. 4.....	\$5,717.38
Nov. 11.....	\$6202.17
Contribution Average.....	\$5920.18
2018 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,887.98

New Member Spotlight

Kathy Nester



Our sister in Christ, whose nickname is "Lil' Sicily," was baptized into Christ October 4, 2018, as a result of Woody Khoury's influence. She is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she still has much family. She likes singing, scrapbooking, cooking/baking (especially Italian foods), traveling, and spending time with family and friends. She is most grateful for God, family (including her grandchildren, ages 3-22), and Woody. Her favorite memories surround the family gatherings she has experienced. Read more about Kathy on the bulletin board.

Member Spotlight

Bobby Sheumaker



Bobby, who serves in the eldership, was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. His dad, Glenn, was a preacher and served as an associate here for 22 years. Bobby and his wife, Becky, came to SFA in 1981. Bobby served in the US Army. From a child, Bobby wanted to be a dentist. He finished dental school in 1978 and has been practicing ever since. He has been on several mission trips to Central America. He and Becky have been married forty years and have three children and six granddaughters with a grandson due in April. Read more about Bobby on the bulletin board.



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 . . .



Thank You, TY

for a great Gospel Meeting! The lessons from the Book of Joshua encouraged us to live better lives for Christ! We appreciate your and Heidi's being with us! We also thank all those who worked behind the scenes to make everything run so smoothly, from the young men who worked the song slides to those who prepared the fellowship room and food for Sunday's meal! God made the body of Christ where every member is important to the functioning of the whole. Thank you for working together to God's glory!



"Out and About" with our Senior Saints

Among the opportunities of fellowship with the South Florida Ave congregation is our senior saints group. There are no age limits and family in Christ from other congregations are welcome to come along! Keep posted through our church announcements, bulletins, website, and/or Facebook page for future activities! Christianity is sweeter with those of like precious faith!



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