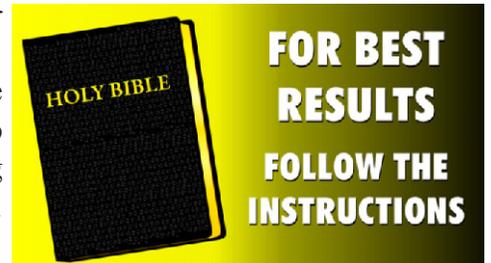


# Instructions for Going to Heaven

For some reason, men have a reputation of not following instructions. Some are said to take an “assembly required” item out of the box, toss the instructions aside, and wonder why what they put together does not look like the picture on the box or does not work correctly. Whether or not this is true with all men remains to be seen. Not following instructions can be humorous when it comes to assembling a toy, but when it comes to our soul, there is nothing humorous about it! Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). The Bible, among other things, is our instruction manual. We cannot toss it out completely nor only partially follow its instructions and expect to enter heaven. Rather, we must make sure we are doing what God’s instructions say! This is what made the difference between the wise and foolish builder in the same chapter. Both heard “these sayings of Mine” (Mt. 7:24, 26), but the wise man also did what the Lord said! Sometimes, people can be so stubborn and insist on doing things their way that they miss the intended benefit. God wants to bless our soul. Let us always seek to learn His will and follow His instructions! ❤️ *Brian*



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

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lakeland, FL  
Permit No. 254



Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



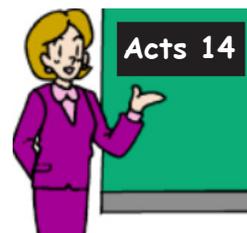
**Sunday, November 24** --- There will be a practice for L2L puppet team at 4:30 p.m. Young people involved are expected to have the lines they worked on last Sunday memorized. All youth are welcome to come and work on Bible bowl. If you need a ride, please see Brian or Jason and it can be arranged.

**Sunday, December 8** --- Our monthly L2L meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. As usual, if you would like to stay for lunch, please bring a dish to share. We hope to have a schedule in the bulletin for our adult volunteers. Thanks for your patience as the program develops!



**Saturday, December 21** --- Our monthly youth devotional will be combined with the annual holiday get-together at the Sweeney's. Stay tuned for more announcements on time and what to bring. We thank the Paulin's for their hospitality last Friday!

**“Berean Bunch” Meets Sundays at 5:45 pm**  
Join us for some fun Bible learning! We appreciate Jim’s working with this program, and we thank those who have volunteered to help! You are impacting our youth for good!



“Miss Becky” would like her 6th and 7th (and sometimes 3rd thru 5th) grade class to study and know the Bible bowl questions on Acts 14 by next Sunday. They are studying one chapter per week, except the chapters dealing with Paul’s conversion (Acts 9; 22; 26), which will be studied together later.

# 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.48 11-26 -13

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
David Williams  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Robert McAnally  
(863) 682-3600

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

## OFFICE PHONE

(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

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

## WEB PAGES

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)  
[www.sfacc.net](http://www.sfacc.net)

## Spiritual Discernment

*Mark N. Posey*

**T**he Christians to whom the Epistle of Hebrews was written were in danger of leaving the Lord and returning to their former life of practicing Judaism. Basically, Hebrews is a book that exhorts discouraged Christians to continue strong with Jesus in light of the complete superiority of Who He is and what He has done for us. They were encouraged to “go on unto perfection [maturity]” (6:1). This instruction was given to those that had become “dull of hearing”(5:11) and were in danger of drifting away from the Lord (2:1). The author exposed their dullness of hearing and failure to mature (5:11-12); he also diagnosed their spiritual condition as babes in Christ (i.e., according to the time they had been followers of Jesus, they should have been much more mature than they were). Their diet of “milk” should have been a diet of “meat.” In the original language, the sense of “for he is a babe,” is “for he has become a babe.” There is nothing more delightful than a true babe in Jesus. Yet, there is nothing more irritating and depressing than someone who should be mature but who has become a babe! These Christians demonstrated immaturity by both their lack of discernment between good and evil and in their contemplation of giving up Jesus. Therefore, it can be said that all five human senses have their spiritual counterparts. Consider how discernment and exercise relate to our senses.

- **We have a spiritual sense of taste:** If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious (1 Peter 2:3). Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8).
- **We have a spiritual sense of hearing:** Hear and your soul shall live (Isaiah 55:3). He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 2:7).
- **We have a spiritual sense of sight:** Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law (Psalm 119:18). The eyes of your understanding (heart) being enlightened (Ephesians 1:18).
- **We have a spiritual sense of smell:** He shall be of quick scent in the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:3). I am full, having received from... you, a sweet-smelling aroma (Philippians 4:18). Cf. 2 Corinthians 2:12-17.
- **We have a spiritual sense of touch or feeling:** Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord (2 Kings 22:19). The hardening of their heart; who being past feeling, have given themselves over to licentiousness (Eph. 4:18-19).

The mature Christian is marked by discernment and by unshakable commitment. The ability to discern is a critical measure of spiritual maturity. Babes are weak in discernment, and they will accept any kind of spiritual food. However, through the exercise of our spiritual senses (trained by practice and habit) our discernment between good and evil will produce maturity.

# Smart Folks Learn from Nature

*Royce Pendergrass*

**A**lbert Einstein was what we call a “genius.” He had the ability to study and comprehend how things worked and the results that would occur when certain things were altered or challenged. The Einstein equation expresses the relation of mass and energy and the Einstein theory is that there is no absolute motion but that all motion is relative. Does that sound profound? It does to me! He was a deep thinker but he did not let that get in the way of his understanding that his intelligence was not of himself. He knew that there was an outside force. He made this famous quote: “Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better.” He also said, “We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us.” Not a great deal is known about Einstein’s religion, and it is true that these declarations from him about nature are not full admissions of him believing in “a greater power,” but at least he realized he could become more intelligent by observing and learning from God’s creation.

Is it not notable to know that sometimes even “great” minds do not rule God out? Too often, people who make a scientific “break-through” of some sort want all the accolades that go with the discovery. They believe they are the brains and are so smart that they do not need to depend on someone else for anything.

The Wise Man said, “don’t be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil” (Proverbs 3:7). It sounds as if trusting in one’s own “smarts” will lead right into evil. This chapter in Proverbs is full of God’s wisdom. We read in Verse 6, “The Lord gives wisdom; out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.” A person may think he is really smart, but that all fades in comparison to the Creator’s knowledge and wisdom. No one can depend on himself to provide things eternal, but the results of how each one lives will determine his eternity as to whether he will dwell eternally in heaven or hell. Both places are real.

Of course, there are those who are so “smart” that they will tell you they do not believe in heaven or hell. However, their declaration of not believing will pass, for we read in Romans 14:11, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me and every tongue shall confess God. Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Paul continued this thought in 2 Corinthians 5:10, “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to what he has done, whether it is good or bad.” There has never been a person who has lived on the earth who will avoid the great reckoning day of the judgment. Some very smart people have tried to convince others that there will be no such day and that these things are figments of someone’s imagination, but God and Christ are real and in charge, and everyone will answer to them. Every person is in control of his own destiny. Heaven will be the reward for the good and faithful, and hell will be the torment for non-believers. No one can change the fact of the judgment, but every one of us can control the outcome of the judgment for us.

The good thing is that, if we faithfully serve the Master, we will not only have a positive effect on our pronouncement at the Judgment, but others may also benefit from our faithfulness if they have become faithful because we have taught them, either by study, word or example. Just as Einstein learned from nature, we also are to learn from nature. Paul spoke of nature being a teacher in 1 Corinthians 11:14. After all, all creation itself speaks to the glory of God for He is the Creator: “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handy work” (Psalm 19:1). No one is so “smart” as to deny the glory and beauty of nature that surrounds us. God made it all!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Joyce Burbage was admitted to LRMC last night & is scheduled for surgery today. Duane Nelson, Sam Bolding, Darlene Thompson, Ann Howard, Jacqueline Dopwell, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** George Radeka (brother of Sharon Egolf). Danny Stephens, Dorothy Trice, Carl Thompson, Lewis Tillis, Darnell & Jane Kirkland & Annie Beth Coone.

**Shut In Members:** Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

**Others:** Jeannetta Joiner, Graham McDonald, Michael Ray, Christina Fuessner, Steve Roberts, Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendricks, Kathy Peel, & Danny Edmonds.

## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 4th** - Don Iverson will be here to give a report on the mission work in India.

**Dec 7th** - The "Ladies Brunch" will be here at S. Fla. Ave. at 9:00 am. Ladies, please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**Note:** Check the bulletin board for other events coming up.

## Sympathy

Our hearts were saddened to receive the news that Gene Dampier, a former member, and Elder here for many years passed away November 16, 2013 at the age of 90. The funeral service will take place November 20th, at Groce Funeral Home in Ashville, NC. Interment will take place at the Western Carolina State Veteran's Cemetery.

## Thank You Note

Dear Church family,

Tyler and I want to express our deepest thanks to all of you who have been encouraging & helpful over the last several months. From the shower, calls, texts, visits, and meals. You have been truly generous & uplifting. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family to raise Harper & Sawyer in. We also appreciate all the prayers on our behalf & are happy to have two healthy babies.

Jessica & Tyler Anderson

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

David Anderson ..... **Table** ..... David Williams  
Paul Romine ..... **Assist** ..... Josh Estridge

### December

Fred Rapley ..... **Table** ..... Frank Hamby  
Bobby Simpson ..... **Assist** ..... Bob Pratt

### Sunday, November 24, 2013

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Prayer** ..... Kyle Williams

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Brian Kenyon

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Stephen Hunley  
**Greeters** ..... Fred & Kathy Strickland  
**Att. Cards** ..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Charles Paulin

### Wed. November 27 2013

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Stacey Paulin

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

### December 1, 2013

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jeremy Padilla  
**Prayer** ..... Tyler Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Stacey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Dave Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Charles Sanford  
**Greeters** ..... Josh & Marissa Estridge  
**Att. Cards** ..... Sebastian Rapley & Quadarius Askew  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Robert Cooper

### Wed. December 4, 2013

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Chuck Wyatt

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Oct. 27 ..... \$3,932.10  
Nov. 03 ..... \$5,015.98  
Nov. 10 ..... \$3,649.46  
Nov. 17 ..... \$3,705.36  
**Contribution Average** ..... \$4,132.86  
**2013 Weekly Budget** ..... \$4,255.13  
**Our Budget Deficit** ..... (\$5,595.12)

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message  
"Ready To Quit"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page  
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

