

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

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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[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](https://www.youtube.com/SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Did Jesus **Bleed** Before the Soldier Pierced His Side?

Brian R. Kenyon

This writer recently became aware of a view that says Jesus shed no blood at all until after He was dead and the soldier pierced His side (Jn. 19:34). Such a doctrine, as it was defended, seems to deny the very humanity of Jesus, which is a serious matter (cf. 1 Jn. 4:2-3; 2 Jn. 7). Before logically and biblically examining this doctrine, some preliminary matters must be addressed.

Why Would Someone Uphold Such a Doctrine?

As with any quirky doctrine, the question legitimately arises: Why would anyone believe such a thing? Consider two reasons that were stated (in defense of a non-bleeding-while-alive Jesus) and a third possible (perhaps even likely) reason. First, it was stated the Bible nowhere explicitly states that Jesus shed a drop of blood until the soldier pierced His side. This reason falsely assumes that only those things that are explicitly stated (word-for-word) in the Bible are things that can be believed, taught, or practiced. Such an assumption is not only unbiblical, but it is also impossible to follow. The people who demand such cannot and do not consistently apply it themselves. In fact, they only use it to defend their hobbies or to deny truths with which they disagree. Where is the explicit statement (word-for-word) for a local church to build a church building or to use electricity? Where is the explicit statement (word-for-word) that says to assemble on Wednesday nights or to use a songbook? In fact, where is the explicit statement (word-for-word) that says we are only to believe, teach, and practice explicit statements?

Implication is a necessary part of Bible interpretation. Explicit, word-for-word, statements are just as true as statements the Bible implies. The classic example of this concerns Abram and Lot. The Bible explicitly, word-for-word, states, "And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south" (Gen. 13:1). Nowhere does the Bible explicitly, word-for-word, state that Lot went down into Egypt. However, since no one can come out of a place he never was, the Bible implies Lot went into Egypt. Thus, the statement, "Lot went into Egypt," is just as true as the statement, "Abram went up out of Egypt ... and Lot with him," even though the former is inferred and the later is explicitly, word-for-word, stated. Furthermore, nowhere does the Bible explicitly say, "God wants Brian saved," but since the Bible does explicitly say, "God ... Who will have all men to be saved" (1 Tim. 2:3-4), and since Brian is a man, the Bible implies, "God wants Brian saved." Thus, the statement, "God wants Brian saved," is just as true as the statement, "God ... Who will have all men to be saved," even though the former is

inferred and the later is explicitly, word-for-word, stated. We cannot dismiss true implication as if it were merely made up by man.

Second, it was stated in defense of the non-bleeding-while-alive Christ that Jesus did not have to bleed because He was more than human. Examples to “prove” this were that Jesus walked on water (Mt. 14:25-27) and that He “walked through walls” (cf. Jn. 20:19 [?]). The proponents of this non-bleeding Jesus state that we do not have to know how Jesus did not bleed through the scourging, the crown of thorns on His head, and the nailing of His hands and feet to the cross because “the secret things belong unto the LORD our God” (cf. Deut. 29:29). This claim, of course, is a misapplication of what God through Moses wrote. Jesus having the same human nature as all other humans is not a “secret thing.” It has been clearly revealed (Jn. 1:14; Heb. 2:14)!

Third, and perhaps most likely, some well known and/or respected preacher of the past held to this no-bleeding-while-alive view of Jesus. This preacher of the past may have held this view as a “pendulum swing” to a false doctrine of his day or as a counter to those who reveled in the gory details of the crucifixion (when the Bible does not give such details cf. Phil. 2:8; Heb. 12:2). No matter the reason, though, if a doctrine violates plain Bible passages and/or principles, it must not be taught by preachers or anyone else. If one holds an opinion on a matter that is not clearly revealed in Scripture, then he must not bind that opinion as a matter of fellowship (cf. 1 Cor. 4:6). Christians must make-up their own minds based on Scripture, not by what well known and/or respected preachers say. For example, a well known and respected preacher once said it was unscriptural to sing the song, “I’ll Fly Away.” He could not imagine a man flapping his arms like a bird’s wings and soaring to heaven. To this writer’s knowledge, though, that preacher of the past never divided the church over it nor made it a test of fellowship. However, David said, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Ps. 90:10). The preacher of the past said men will not fly away. The Bible says, at least in some sense, humans will “fly away” after physical life. On which one should our belief be based: the Bible or the preacher of the past? The answer is obvious. We must allow the Bible to form our beliefs and practices!

Jesus Was Human

Jesus is the most unique person to have ever walked this earth. He was and is both God (Jn. 1:1-3) and human (Jn. 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:28). Perhaps this uniqueness is best summarized by Paul:

Who [Christ], being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name [the name, NKJ] which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:6-11)

The Hebrews writer stated, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same” (Heb. 2:14). A few verses later, he wrote that “in all things it behoved him [Jesus] to be made like unto his brethren” (Heb. 2:17). Jesus possessed the same human nature as us, the ones He came to save. In order to defeat sin, God had to do it on sin’s “home turf,” which is human flesh (Rom. 8:3). While in His human body, Jesus never ceased being God. He was still all-powerful (cf. Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3), all-knowing (cf. Jn. 2:24-25), and present everywhere in the sense of His knowledge and power (cf. Mt. 8:23-27; Jn. 3:13), though not in His physical body, which was wearied at times (Jn. 4:6). Given Jesus’ human nature, the following argument is rationally and biblically undeniable:

1. All living, flesh and blood, humans will bleed when pierced through the hands and feet with nails.
2. Jesus was a living, flesh and blood, human.
3. Therefore, Jesus bleed when pierced through His hands and feet with nails.

While it might seem inconsequential that some brethren think Jesus did not bleed until the soldier pierced His side, the danger lies in the faulty way (i.e., false hermeneutic) they go about supporting their doctrine and the divisiveness that results in attempting to bind it. May we base our beliefs, teachings, and practices on what the Bible truly teaches! *AE Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Anita Shearer is home with the flu. Ginny Hamby, Cierra Edwards, Jeanelle Thrower, Staci Smith, Ellen Shearer, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford, Jim Turner, Denise Gulizia, Chuck (hand surgery) & Evelyn Wyatt, Sharon Mathis-Washington, Debbie Bush, Ginny Johnson and Alan & Rachel Grimes who are traveling.

Shut In Members: Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., Tanya Irizarry, Trevor & Sandy Hutchins, (Becky Sheumaker's brother and sister in law) both of them going thru a difficult time with cancer, and Peggy Nabors cancer has returned (Kim Faneuf's mother).

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 23: Parents meeting, 9:30 a.m. in fellowship hall.

Sunday, November 24: Men's Training class, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 24: Lads to Leaders Work Day, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 30: Youth group yard work day. Leaving church building at 9:30 a.m. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. See Vince for details.

Sunday December 1st: Fellowship In-Service after evening worship service. Please bring finger foods.

Sunday December 8th: Elders/Deacons Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday December 21st: Men's Breakfast at Griffin Rd. church of Christ in Lakeland at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday December 21st: Youth group will go Christmas caroling leaving the building at 2:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you would like for them to come and sing for you.

Saturday December 21st: Annual Christmas Party here in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. Bring a potluck dish and a white elephant gift for your specific age group. The youth group will lead Christmas carols for the whole group.

Christmas Stockings

We will be making Christmas stockings for the Women's Abuse Shelter again this year. Please see Rene' Bingle if you would like to help with this project. A list of suggested items is on the bulletin board. Deadline for bringing items in is December 1st.

Sympathy

Bruce Bitting, one of our former long-time members, passed away in his sleep on Friday November 15. The funeral was Wednesday at the Ponger Kays Grady Funeral Home in Arcadia, FL at 10:00 a.m. Please keep the family in your prayers. Jane, his wife's, address is: 7420 N.W. Oak Hill Ave. Arcadia, FL. 34266, if you would like to send a card.

Response

Brenda Mask's heart was touched by the lesson Sunday evening and requested prayer from the congregation.

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Johnny Davidson, Brownlow-Dindy family, T. Gerri Michelle, Dolly Martin, Tiffany and Megan Hash, Marcia Island, Jamie Flores, Mike Mulligan, Mr & Mrs. Johnny Ford and children and Jeanne Fitzpatrick

Communion to Shut-Ins

Nov. 24th Van Allen
 Dec. 1st Deal and Turner
 Dec. 8th Van Allen
 Dec. 15th Youth Group

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Designated Elder During Services - Kenny French

Open/Close Building - Bob Cooper

Bobby Sheumaker..... **Table** Wayne Shearer
 Phil Fife **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, November 24, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Edward Atkins
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... David Anderson
Greeters..... Pratt/Smith
Cards..... Longfellow/Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer David Deal

December Clean-up Jimmy Sweeney's team

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

Sunday, December 1, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... David Williams
Prayer..... Josh Estridge
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcut
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Rick Kenyon
Greeters..... Fife/Daugherty
Cards..... Klark/Willcut

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Anderson

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Song Leader..... Matt Willcut
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 27 **\$6,254.46**
Nov. 03 **\$8,476.66**
Nov. 10 **\$6,139.25**
Nov. 17 **\$7,162.25**
Contribution Average **\$6,565.22**

"By What Authority" Implication

When Jesus was asked by chief priests and elders, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?," Jesus countered by asking them, "The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" (Mt. 21:23-25). Jesus knew that question would expose their bias and stiff-necked refusal to accept the obvious truth. Their hard heart may never have changed, but those hearing the discussion would know for sure how bias and stiff-necked these chief priests and elders were! In their analyzing of the question, these opponents of Jesus reasoned, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet" (Mt. 21:25-26). Even though the explicit (word-for-word) question did not mention their position, they knew the implication of the question! They could not answer it publicly without exposing their irrational bent and refusal to accept Jesus. So they lied, "We do not know" (Mt. 21:27). Jesus' questioning brought out their refusal to put two facts together: (1) John the Baptist and Jesus were sent by the same God (Jn. 1:6; 5:30); and (2) to accept John as being authorized by God would be to accept Jesus as authorized by God. Their refusal to accept Jesus caused them to irrationally reject true implication! May we never refuse to accept truth, even if ascertained by implication! *Æ Brian*



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 . . .



SPECIAL THANKS to the (younger) Kenyons, who opened up their home, and all those who made the 2nd Annual Thankful Meal a great success! Several of our youth and their parents gathered for a devotional, fellowship, and a service project, while sharing a meal consisting of participants' favorite dishes!



MISSION TRIP PERU, JULY 17-25

If you would like to go on the YES II mission trip to Ica, Peru, on July 17-25, 2020, see Brian. Over the last five years we have been blessed to work with other young people in evangelizing the lost and encouraging the saved in Central and South American countries. We appreciate our eldership for seeing the value in sending our young people on these mission trips. If you would like to help contribute financially, see the elders. Please pray for this work in the Lord!

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)

Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)

Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2)

From now through February, when Hiram begins his Gospel meetings, Vince will regularly preach on the 4th or 5th Sundays.