



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 48 November 26, 2024

ELDERS

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Bobby Sheumaker

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Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Steven Ford

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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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.....6:30 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD
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Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Getting To Know Jesus:

“The Son of Man” (Part 1)

Steven Ford

What exactly did Jesus mean when He referred to Himself as the Son of Man (Matthew 8:9; 16:13; John 3:14; etc.)? At first glance, one might understand Jesus to simply be identifying one half of His dual nature. Perhaps Son of God identifies His divine nature and Son of Man identifies His human nature. While this conclusion is logical and easy to understand, the true meaning is of far greater significance. In this article we will explore the profound meaning and implications of our Lord’s title of Son of Man.

The Foretelling

The term Son of Man is used over and over again in the Old Testament. It is used multiple times in the Book of Ezekiel as God gave instructions to preach to the those who had been carried away into Babylonian captivity (Ezekiel 2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 5:1, etc.). During that same time, there was another prophet declaring the word of God in Babylon. While Ezekiel was prophesying among the captives that had been carried away (Ezekiel 1:1), Daniel was in the palace of the king (Daniel 1:4). Part of Daniel’s prophetic work was interpreting the dreams of the king (Daniel 2:19-23, 28; 4:18-19). One of the ways that God revealed information to Daniel was through dreams and night visions (Daniel 2:19; 7:2).

In Daniel 7, we have record of Daniel having a dream and night visions that were so significant that he wrote all of what he had seen. “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters” (Daniel 7:1). In this dream, Daniel saw four great beasts rise up from the sea one at a time. The first beast was like a lion with eagle’s wings. The second beast was like a bear. The third beast was like a leopard, and the fourth was simply described as “dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly” (Daniel 7:7). The four beasts are revealed to represent four kings (Daniel 7:17) that will rise out of the earth and in dreadful fashion, impose themselves upon the world in successive order. History reveals these four kingdoms to be Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. The reign and power of the final strong and terrible king (Rome) will come to an end with the introduction of God’s throne (Daniel 7:9). It is at this point in the vision that Daniel finally saw the one who is the subject of this article. “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people,

nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

The interpretation of this dream (Daniel 7:17-27) revealed at least two significant things. First, throughout history there would be four dreadful empires that would come and rule in the earth. Each having its own negative attributes that would make them unique from the others. The final beast (king) seemed far worse than the others and would do great harm to the world and God’s people in particular (Daniel 7:7, 19-25). The second note of significance is that the fourth and final king’s reign would not be forever. God’s Kingdom would take away the rule and dominion of these earthly kingdoms (Daniel 7:12) and the fourth terrible king would be consumed and destroyed (Daniel 7:26). The one called the Son of Man would be the proverbial “last man standing” and usher in an everlasting Kingdom that would never be destroyed. Not only would the Son of Man have everlasting Rule, but He is imaged as being in the presence of the Ancient of Days (God the Father). This implies His divine nature and that He would have divine authority, rule, and dominion.

For centuries, the Jewish people would wait for the Son of Man to come and put an end to the evil rule of the kingdoms of men. One after another, the three prophesied kingdoms would rise, reign, and eventually fall. Several centuries before the birth of the Lord, the fourth kingdom would form and come to power. As the Roman Empire ascended to global dominance, it came to fulfill the prophecy of its terror and dread (Daniel 7:7). This would be the exact point in time that God would reveal His everlasting Kingdom. This not only brought to fruition Daniel’s dream (Daniel 7) but also the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44).

With the stage set for the Lord’s Kingdom to come into the picture, God’s people would have been eager with anticipation. The emergence of such a holy reign would first mean that the enemies of God’s people would face divine justice (Daniel 2:44; 7:12, 26). A second result would be that this new Kingdom would not be ruled by men. The One to stand as the Sovereign would be of divine nature and thus His rule would be just, righteous, holy. Further, this Kingdom would be inhabited by souls from every nation and language. What a Kingdom indeed! Its Ruler is divine, its laws would be righteous, its borders would stretch to the ends of the earth, and its dominion would know no end!

Final Thoughts

The title of Son of Man carries far more implication than mere human origins. Jesus referred to Himself as such more than eighty times in recorded scripture. He must have wanted His hearers to connect the prophecy of Daniel to the Kingdom that He declared to be “at hand” (Matthew 4:17). In this first installment of “Jesus: The Son of Man,” the focus was on Daniel’s foretelling. In the second installment, we will further explore its fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Most Significant "Black Friday" did not occur after Thanksgiving so retail stores could get "in the black" financially. Rather, it occurred on the Friday Jesus was crucified, when, as He hung on the cross, "from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:45-46). While there are different views of what Jesus meant by this statement, it is clear that Jesus was in agony physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It is also clear, from His thrice repeated prayer in the garden, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me" (Matthew 26:39, 42, 44), that a part of Jesus did not want to go through this excruciating death. Indeed, a serious contemplation of what Jesus suffered should cause a person to tremble. Yet, for all humanity, Jesus followed through with the cross. Let us be thankful that He, "for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). ♥ *Brian*

PRAYER LIST

Current: Rosetta Vargas is having medical tests done. Brenda Lynn is in much pain from pelvic fractures, Ron and Kristen Cox and not feeling well.

Continual: Melissa Craft (health), Rachel Zapata (health), Jim Turner (cancer) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health);

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, Bettye Bolding, Cheryl Barker

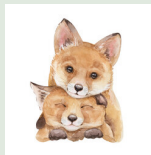
Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)

Kathy Nester will be flying back home on January 13, 2025. She is staying with her brother Paul Spica at this time. Her address in Michigan is :1348 Lancaster NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday Nov. 29 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm! Drop the kids off for a night of food, fun and games! There will be no charge, but donation's will be accepted to benefit FSOP. A great opportunity to get a start on your Christmas shopping or to just enjoy an evening out without the kids!



Baby Shower

Come help us celebrate with Casey and Emily Paulin.

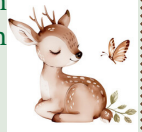
Sunday December 29th after evening services.

Please bring finger foods to share.

BABY BOY is due in March of 2025.

They are registered at my.babylist.com and there will also be a money tree. Gift cards would also be appreciated. If you purchase a large size gift from the registry please have it shipped to their home in SD as they will have limited space to take items home with them. See Marissa or Michelle with any questions.

(Their address is 1648 Kansas Ave. S.E. Huron, SD 57350)



Lads to Leaders

Sunday, Dec 1

Lunch will be

Provided!

All are encouraged

to attend to work

on your projects!

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Taught by Susan Stearsman

God's Witness

Study of First John 4:20-5:13

December 10, 2024
7:00 PM

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING
1807 S. FLORIDA AVE., LAKELAND, FL
(863) 683-4043 WWW.FSOP.NET

Scheduled to Serve in November

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
Wednesday, November 27, 2024	
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife

Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Putting Faith to Work" (Pt. 1) James 1:1-4	
6:00 pm Sermon	Steven Ford
"God Exalted" (Psalm 8:1-4)	

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	J & K Sweeney
Song/Pray before class	Brian Kenyon
Announcements (both)	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader	Josh Epperson
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Lord's Table (both)	Nigel St Bernard
Closing Prayer	David Williams
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	---
Sound Booth (both)	Jason

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Estridge's
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader	Josh Epperson
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Closing Prayer	David Deal

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Tucker Sweeney
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle

How We Are Giving

November 10	\$6,722.26
November 17	\$7,906.00
November 24	\$5,218.50
Contribution Average	\$6,919.24
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

"The Best Way to Stay Hungry for God is to Stop Snacking on Sin"

Have you ever been hungry, really hungry? Most of us in this country have not had to experience true hunger, but you understand what it means. The definition of hungry in the dictionary is "a strong desire or craving" for something. As Christians we should always be desirous and craving to know more about God and His will, we should daily be feasting on the riches of His word. Matthew 5:6 says that "blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Psalms 107:9 says "For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things." Hunger is a feeling that God has given to us, when we are sick or troubled sometimes we may lose our appetite-but as a rule we like to feed ourselves every day. A healthy person regularly feeds himself in order to maintain energy that he needs to live and thrive. If a person only eats snacks he will not feel hungry but he will not be healthy. So it is with our spiritual health, if we constantly fill our lives with worldly "junk" we will not have time for God and eventually we will lose our appetite for Him. In order to stay hungry for God we must stay in His word, and make Him a priority in our life. "Like newborn infants, long for spiritual milk, that by it you may grow into salvation. (1 Peter 2:2). Just as we feed our bodies every day we must feed our souls every day. It would be good if it could be said of us as it was said of those in Thessalonica, ..."they received the word with all eagerness examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11).

In conclusion, we must strive to continually feast on God's word as the Psalmist did as recorded in Psalm 119:97 when he said "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day". If we keep ourselves "full" on God's word, we won't need or want to be "snacking" on sin to try to satisfy our appetite! Ephesians 4:3 - "Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" 1 John 1:7 - "but if we walk in the light, as He is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."



SAVE THE DATES:

- Dec. 7, 2024-** Youth Christmas Party at the Willcut's home@4:00 pm
- Dec. 14, 2024-** SFA Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 15, 2024-** FSOP Graduation following evening service
- Jan. 03, 2025-** Bonfire at the Kenyon home, all are invited!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

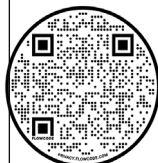
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever"

Psalm 136:1



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.