

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / 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.

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Three Things I Learned in Bible Class

Hiram Kemp

Personal Bible study is often encouraged, and we will give account of ourselves to God. No one can study the Bible for us (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). However, there are benefits that can be gained from studying the Scriptures communally. The Jews in Berea collectively searched the Scriptures to verify what Paul and his companions taught was the truth (Acts 17:11). Paul told the church at Colossae to read the letter he wrote to them but also to swap letters with the Laodiceans and read the letter he wrote to the Laodiceans (Col. 4:16). The letters to the seven churches of Asia were to be read by congregations together and circulated (Rev. 2-3). The purpose of Bible classes in the local church is to teach the Bible and engage the mind of those present so they might study further on the ideas discussed in the class. A forty-five minute class cannot do justice to every passage studied, but it can whet the spiritual appetite of those present and cause them to plunge deeper into the verses discussed when they study on their own. From studying this quarter's Engraving Heavenly Truths material on the Devil, Sin, and Hell, I learned several important lessons, three of which I would like to share in this article.

The Devil is Defeated

The Devil is the enemy of the human race and he seeks to devour us all and cause us to lose our souls (1 Pet. 5:8). The Devil is described as the "prince of this world" (Jn. 14:30), the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4), and the deceiver of the entire world (Rev. 12:9). Many Bible students get the mistaken idea that the Devil is to be feared. Surely the Devil is not one to be trifled with or taken lightly but those who have trusted in Christ for their salvation should not fear the Devil. Before Jesus entered the world, the Devil had power over humanity because sin had a grip on us and death was not overcome. Yet Jesus came and destroyed the Devil, stripped him of his power, and released all those who accept his gracious offer through obedient faith (Heb. 2:9, 14-15). The one who is in us is greater than the evil influence of the Devil that occupies the world (1 Jn. 4:4). As we studied through the material this quarter that mentioned the Devil's introducing sin into the world, I learned that we must avoid two extremes as it relates to the Devil.

One extreme fails to acknowledge the Devil as the enemy he truly is. The other extreme gives the Devil far too much credit. The Devil is a defeated enemy. The Devil is not omnipotent nor omniscient. The Devil cannot thwart the plans of God. The more we study the Scriptures, the more we will realize that *(continued on page 2)*

the power the Devil has in our lives is granted to us as we give him access to our hearts and submit to his desires. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden, we are surrounded with God's love, His commands, and His prohibitions. While the Devil hisses his enticements in our ears, we must be sure that the volume of the word of God is turned up loud enough in our hearts to tune him out. Jesus defeated the Devil at the cross, and the closer we are to the cross today the more we enjoy the same victory (Gal. 2:20; 6:14).

Sin is Deadly

I knew sin was deadly before we studied the material for this Bible quarter, but this fact was further implanted to my heart over the last thirteen weeks. No one would ever knowingly choose death instead of life, but every time we choose sin over righteousness, we are choosing death instead of life (Rm. 6:23). Sin separates me from God when I do not confess it and forsake it (Prov. 28:13; Isa. 59:1-2; 1 Jn. 1:7-10). As sin is legalized and normalized in our society, we run the risk of not being as repulsed by ungodliness as we should (Ps. 101:3; Rm. 1:32).

Combing through the sin lists given by Paul and others throughout the New Testament helped me to see that I must cling to righteousness and to keep a guard on my heart and what I allow to enter into it (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:5-9). Though the sin lists sometimes vary in their specifics, they all have one common theme; they begin in the heart (Prov. 4:23). As the works of the flesh are described by the Holy Spirit through the pen of Paul, it becomes evident that they are all rooted in the hearts of individuals (Gal. 5:19-21). Sin is not something we can blame on anyone except ourselves. We do not receive it from our parents, and we do not bear the guilt of Adam and Eve's sin (Ezek. 18:20). We are drawn away of our own lusts and enticed. As we give in to sin, it drags us on a road that ultimately ends in death (Jas. 1:14-16). When we consider the types of sins to which we succumb, it shows us where our hearts are. Jesus shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins, and we should be eternally grateful for that sacrifice (Mt. 26:28).

Hell Is Not Funny

The world has tried to turn hell into a curse word or as a part of comedy acts so that the subject may be taken lightly. Maybe people joke about hell because they know if they think about it seriously, it will necessitate a change on their part. Hell will last forever (Mt. 25:46). Jesus taught about hell more than he did any other subject. He was constantly warning people about the judgment and about the possibility of being separated from God for all eternity. Do we really believe what Jesus said about hell? Most Christians would say they believe Jesus' words about hell, but sometimes our actions betray our profession. In Luke 16, we read about a man in hell who wanted to be evangelistic and benevolent, he was even interested in a resurrection, but it was too late (Lk. 16:19-31).

Many in hell will desire to hear the gospel preached to them and will want a chance to make things right that they should have corrected in this life, but it will be too late. Religious error, pride, self-righteousness, and the mistreatment of others are all things that can lead to our eternal demise. The truth is that more people are heading for hell than for heaven (Mt. 7:13-14). Christians do not fear eternal condemnation, but we still should warn our friends and wayward Christians of this awful reality (Rm. 8:1). I cannot imagine Jesus ever talking about hell with a smile on his face. Can you? Hell is serious and should be viewed as such. This quarter in Bible class, I was reminded of how serious hell is and how much God wants everyone to be saved from it (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4).

Conclusion

Bible class is not designed to take up time before the sermon by simply going through the motions. Bible classes are designed by elderships to further immerse the congregation in God's word with the hope that the truths studied will be lived out in our lives. I hope you will always prioritize Bible class and make an effort to learn things that you will put into practice in your daily life. This quarter's study on the Devil, Sin, and Hell was of help to me, and I hope it was to you too.

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **(James 4:6-7)**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith. **(1 Peter 5:8-9a)**

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Wayne Shearer will be starting a new chemotherapy drug for his cancer, but has had good test results. Wanda Bruno, Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Wayne Shearer's parents, Paulisky Irizarry (Jagie's brother), Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Bobby Cole, Loretta Pickard, (Debbie Bush's son's, mother in-law) passed away in a house fire, Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding, Tonya Mathis, Connie Jordan and Maureen Nichols.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Dec. 1st: Youth Group will be meeting at the building at 9:30 a.m. to do a service project and then attend the Concord St. church of Christ Science & Bible Seminar with Kyle Butt.

Sat. Dec. 8th: Youth Group devo and service project, 10:30am in fellowship hall. See Jessica Anderson for details.

Sunday Dec. 2nd: Fellowship In-Service following the evening service.

Sunday Dec. 9th: Elders/Deacons Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 15th: Men's breakfast at North Lakeland at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Dec. 16th: We will be stuffing stockings for a local ladies' shelter. Items needed will be for boys and girls ages 11-16 and also for ladies. There is a basket in the foyer to put your donated items. We will also take cash to do the shopping. Give your money to Rene' Bingle by Dec. 12th.

Tuesday Dec. 18th: Senior Saints dinner at Fred's restaurant and then going to look at Christmas lights. Meet at the building at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 22nd: We will be Christmas Caroling. Please meet at the building at 12:45 p.m. Let Jagie Kenyon know if you plan to come.

Saturday Dec. 22nd: Our Annual Holiday Party at the Sweeney's at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend please add your name to the sign up sheet and indicate what food you will bring. Remember your white elephant gift for the gift exchange.

Monday Dec. 31st: 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off at 6:00 p.m. Judging will be by a panel of experts chosen by your deacons. Please bring a side dish, drinks and dessert. Please sign up if you are bringing a pot of chili. Games and a Senior Citizen ball drop to follow the meal.

Thank You's

Thank you for all the prayers and cards. Love Wanda Bruno
Dear Brothers and Sisters, I have no words to express thanks for your cards, calls, concern and prayers shown to us as Chip goes through his fight for life. The chemo-therapy didn't kill the new cells. He is now taking Immunotherapy to try to stop them. Please continue your prayers.

In Christian love, bettye bolding

Visitors

Janet Moore, Jerry Green and T'Jean Tomlinson.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

Dec 02.....	Kemp
Nov 09.....	Kenyon
Dec 16.....	McShane

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Dennis McCarter.....	Table	Josh Estridge
Chaz Hine.....	Assist	Bobby Simpson

Sunday, December 2, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer.....	Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements.....	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	Kyle Fanuef
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Tim Croson
Sound Booth.....	Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	David Williams
Opening Prayer.....	Wayne Shearer
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Jason Hendrix
Sound Booth.....	Alex Parramore
Greeters.....	Williams
Att. Cards.....	Willcutt boy's
Open & Close Building.....	Bob Cooper

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Song Leader.....	Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer.....	Kenny French
Closing Prayer.....	Bobby Sheumaker

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

Sunday, December 9, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....	Jim Turner
Prayer.....	David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements.....	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	John McShane
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Paul Romine
Sound Booth.....	Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	David Williams
Opening Prayer.....	Steve Hunley
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Tim Croson
Sound Booth.....	Tucker Sweeney
Greeters.....	Fifes
Att. Cards.....	Caelen and Cam'ron Bailey
Open & Close Building.....	Bob Cooper

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Song Leader.....	Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer.....	Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer.....	Charles Paulin

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 4.....	\$5,717.38
Nov. 11.....	\$6,202.17
Nov. 18.....	\$6,204.30
Nov. 25.....	\$5,194.77
Contribution Average.....	\$5,910.80
Weekly Budget.....	\$4,887.98



New Member Spotlight

Dustin Walling



Dustin is originally from Winter Haven, Florida. His dad currently serves as a Gospel preacher, and his brother has also been involved in the ministry. He recently placed membership here due to the good influence of friends who are already members here. He presently works with the Faneuf Insurance Agency in Lake Wales. He is most thankful for his family and friends. In his spare time, he likes to ride his motorcycle. The best advice he's ever been given was "Save your money." Welcome to SFA, Dustin! Read more about him on the bulletin board.



Member Spotlight

Michelle Paulin



Michelle was born in Flint, Michigan, before moving here with her family in the late 1970s. As a child, she wanted to be a teacher. Her first Job was as a receptionist in a dental office. She presently serves as one of our church secretaries. She likes traveling, biking, hiking, and shopping, and she especially enjoys spending time with her family. The best advice she's ever been given was "Always put God first." She and her husband, Stacey, have two children and one granddaughter (and a cute little dog). Read more about Michelle 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 . . .



We announce the wedding of
Elltanet Enamorado
to Andrew Fiedler

on Saturday, October 20, 2018, in Tucson, Arizona. Elly is the daughter of Jagie and Brian Kenyon. The couple will reside in Tucson for at least the next few years.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder!" (Mt. 19:6)



From the Garden of Eden, the devil has been deceptively seeking to undermine the goodness of God (Gen. 3:1-5). One tactic goes something like this, "How can God be loving when He creates people whom He knows are going to an eternity in hell? If God were so good, either He would not create sinners or everyone would go to heaven!" While this topic requires more space to fully develop, consider: (1) God created humans in His image (Gen. 1:26-27); (2) only humans have free-will either to choose God's eternal fellowship in heaven or to reject it (Deut. 30:19); (3) God

wants everybody to eternally fellowship Him in heaven (2 Pet. 3:9); (4) the only way God can provide opportunity for every human procreated to choose eternal fellowship with Him in heaven is to leave open the possibility that some humans will reject it, for God cannot override human free-will (else it would not be free-will); (5) God, anticipating people would sin, provided Jesus to take away sin, so that those who commit to Jesus can eternally fellowship God in heaven (1 Jn. 2:1-2).