



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 45 November 7, 2023

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

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.

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Invite Your Family, Friends & Neighbors



Spiritual Family Matters

SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST
FALL GOSPEL MEETING

NOVEMBER 12-15, 2023

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Monday Evening	7:00 PM
Tuesday Evening	7:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM



Speaker: TOMMY BROOKS

1807 S. Florida Avenue

Lakeland FL 33803

863. 682. 4702

sfa.church@gmail.com

Brother Brooks is from the Highland

Heights church of Christ in Houston, Texas.

Israel's Place in God's Plan Salvation Is God's Choice (Part 2)

Brian R. Kenyon

Contrary to first century Jewish thought (and the assumption of many today), because Israel was once specially chosen by God to be His people (Deut. 7:6-8), did not mean that Israel would forever be God's special people. Their special status was conditional (Deut. 28). Paul declared that salvation has always been God's choice, and that those who reject God's plan cannot be His people (cf. Deut. 30:19-20). After showing that the "Israel" of his day was lost (Rom. 9:1-5), Paul detailed five avenues through which God exercised His sovereign right to chose. In last week's article, two of the five reasons were given that proved salvation was God's choice; namely, His choice through Isaac (Rom. 9:6-9) and through Jacob (Rom. 9:10-13). Below are the other three lines of evidence showing salvation is completely God's choice.

God Has Always Chosen the Path of Salvation

Third, God's choice was proven by Pharaoh (Rom. 9:14-18). The fact that the blessing was God's choice did not make God unjust (Rom. 9:14). The grounds and means of salvation were not the choice of mankind (Rom. 9:15-16). "I will ... I will" (Rom. 9:15) confirmed it was God's choice (cf. Ex. 33:19), not the choice of the person who "who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy" (Rom. 9:16). God alone has the right to stipulate conditions, and thus determine who will receive mercy. God chose the plan, and the plan required others to choose their course. Pharaoh was chosen (not to make him who he was, but because of whom he was) to fulfill God's purpose (Rom. 9:17-18 cf. Ex. 9:16). This illustrates human free-will in God's choice. God said go; Pharaoh said no! Pharaoh's heart was hardened by the truth of God (cf. Ex. 7:14). Pharaoh's choosing related to Israel's deliverance and keeping the promise. God's favor was to those who accepted His word (Isaac, Jacob, Moses). God rejected those who did not (Ishmael, Esau, Pharaoh). God chose Pharaoh. Who can object?

Fourth, God's choice was proven by the potter and the clay (Rom. 9:19-24). We have no business passing judgment on God's decisions and/or actions. In view of the fact that God has mercy on whom He will, two questions arise: "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" (Rom. 9:19-20). In other words, they were asking, Why does God condemn a person for sin if He alone decides who to save and who to reject? Who can resist God's decrees if He saves whom He wills and hardens the rest? Paul answered that God's actions were not subject to man's questions. God made the choices and people have no alternative but to accept them if they are to please Him. We are God's creatures, and He has the divine right to establish limits (cf. Acts 17:26-28). We have the obligation to accept it (cf. Ezk. 18:25-32). Paul illustrated this with the "potter and the clay" (Rom. 9:21-24 cf. Jer. 18:1-10). The clay has no business questioning the potter (Rom. 9:21). From the "same lump" God can make vessels of "honor" (beauty; of noble purpose) and "dishonor" (common; of ignoble purpose). God chooses, but we determine what kind of vessel we are based on our compliance to His will (cf. 1 Pet. 2:4-10). God was longsuffering with Pharaoh throughout the ten plagues (Rom. 9:22). God made His riches known to Israel—and now to the Gentiles (Rom. 9:23-24). God is the Potter, and we are the Clay. Who can object?

**"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
- Mark 16:15-16**

Fifth, God's choice was proven by the Scriptures (Rom. 9:25-29). Hosea prophesied of the entrance of the Gentiles (cf. Hos. 1:10; 2:23). God would "call" the Gentiles, who were "not my people," upon the same grounds (cf. 2 Thes. 2:14). Isaiah spoke of only a remnant of Israel being saved (cf. Isa. 10:22-23). When God chose to save those who obey, He had to reject those who did not. Since the Lord had spoken, it would be done ("He will finish" cf. Isa. 55:10-11). The remnant is what spared Israel (Rom. 9:29 cf. Isa. 1:9). Israel could have complied with God's choice of salvation, but they did not (Rom. 9:30-33)! The Scriptures have spoken. Who can object?

PRAYER LIST

Current : Toney Wilson is having some medical issues and upcoming tests. Casey Potvin is still struggling with bad migraines and is having tests. Gene & Brenda Boles were at home Sunday, not feeling well.

Continual: Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Ronnie Lynn is recovering from neck surgery.

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French and Barbara Jones



Congratulations to Charlene and Earl Smith on the birth of their beautiful baby, **Sanai Leigh**, on Saturday, November 4, 2023! Both mom and baby are doing well. Let us praise God and give Him thanks for life!

FSOP Ladies Class : November 14 at 6:00 PM
(notice the earlier time due to our Gospel Meeting)

Teacher Susan Stearsman
KEPT - John 17:12-19

Thankful Meal - The youth group will be having a Thankful Meal at the Daugherty's house on Nov. 18 @ 6:00 PM. Everyone is to bring their favorite food with share. A sign up sheet is posted on Vince's office door.



Walk Out of Darkness/ Suicide Prevention Walk

Join us on Sunday December 3 as we share the Hope of Christ at this annual event!

We need volunteers to come to the event to encourage walkers, and we need volunteers to donate items to be given away. Items needed: 16oz water bottles, granola bars, fruit, small packs of crackers or snacks. We also need coolers to hold the water while at the event. See Rick Kenyon with any questions.

Save the Date:
December 9, 2023
SFA Christmas Party
Details to follow soon!



Scheduled to Serve in November

Designated Elder	David Anderson
Wednesday, November 8, 2023	
Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	Tommy Brooks
Closing Prayer	Jarred Spivey
Sunday, November 12, 2023	
10:30 am Sermon	Tommy Brooks
Gospel Meeting Sermon Title: TBA	
6:00 pm Sermon	Tommy Brooks
Gospel Meeting Sermon Title: TBA	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Olivia / Ingrid
Song/Pray before class	Vince Daugherty
Announcements (both)	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader (both)	Brian Kenyon
Bible Reader/Prayer	Brian Williams
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Open/Close Building	Bobby Shuemaker
Attendance Cards	Peyton W. / Landon
Sound Booth (both)	Derek Williams
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Sweeneys
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Brian Kenyon
Bible Reader/Prayer	Rick Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Jimmy Sweeney
Wednesday, November 15, 2023	
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Frank Hamby
Devotional / Invitation	Tommy Brooks
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife
How We Are Giving	
October 22	\$5,281.25
October 29	\$11,432.00
November 5	\$10,215.00
Contribution Average	\$7,063.90
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

Upcoming Events 2023

November
12 Elders and Deacons Meeting
10-11 Fall Family Camp at Weeki Wachee Camp
12-15 Fall Gospel Mtg at SFA- Tommy Brooks
December
3 "Walk out of Darkness" event
9 SFA Holiday Party

Why Won't you Behave?

I was reading a daily devotion and the writer said that the children of Israel were perhaps aptly named. Just like children, they would act out/misbehave. God would correct them, they would straighten up for a while, and then they would go right back to rebelling against God. (Judges 2:1-4, 7, 10-12)

Aren't some children just like that? Why won't they behave? Because they are stubborn and prefer to do things their way. Sometimes they do what they see their friends are doing. They don't follow the guidance of their parents and suffer the consequences when they disobey. Some children repeat the same mistakes again and again as if they don't care about the consequences.

The children of Israel were the same way. Over and over, God had to correct them. (Judges 2:14-22) Sadly some lost their lives because of their disobedience. (Numbers 16)

As New Testament Christians, are we listening to and obeying our Father? Or are we being stubborn and living a life of rebellion? Let us always be praying like David in Psalm 25:4-5, "Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." Also, Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Youth Section

Christian Apologetics

Apologetics

Earth is the Goldilocks Planet

"Mercury and Venus are hot and sterile. Mars is a toxic wasteland. In between Venus and Mars lies this amazing blue jewel called Earth, blessed with water, greenery, and life in almost every cranny and nook. It has the right magnetic shield, the right solar energy, the right continental minerals, the right atmosphere, the right carbon, oxygen, water, nitrogen cycles, and a moon that is at the right distance, destiny, and orbit. Everything is just right."*

Is it just a coincidence that our planet is just right to sustain life or was it created that way?

*Quote taken from podcast discussion "Will Scientists EVER find Earth 2.0" on Youtube channel Creation Ministries International

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Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

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Return Service Requested

"O give thanks unto the LORD for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34



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