



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 49 December 2, 2024

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Steven Ford

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

OFFICE PHONE
(863) 682-4702

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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

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J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Getting To Know Jesus:

“The Son of Man” (Part 2)

Steven Ford

In the first installment of this topic, Son of Man, we looked into the foretelling and anticipation of the Son of Man as revealed through the prophecy of Daniel (Daniel 7). With Daniel’s night visions in mind (Daniel 7:13-14), the Children of Israel would have been waiting for the One who would arrive and overthrow the wicked and unrighteous kingdoms of men. Daniel spoke of the Son of man that would be given dominion, glory, and a Kingdom that would not be destroyed. They did not know exactly when, nor did they know exactly who would be their savior and deliverer. Yet, with bated breath, they waited to see the revealing of the Kingdom of the Son of Man.

The Fulfillment

Though no man knew the exact time when the Messiah, or Son of Man, would come, God the Father always knew. The time had been determined from the beginning. In fact, the apostle Paul would speak of His coming with the following words: “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4-5). Again, in his letter to Ephesus, Paul referenced this unique and determined point in time. “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him” (Ephesians 1:10). In both of the preceding passages, Paul spoke of the Lord’s bringing people together in Himself to both redeem and reign over them all. There are (at least) three senses in which our Lord perfectly embodied and fulfilled the term Son of man.

Early Ministry

In both of Daniel’s prophecies (Daniel 2:44-45; 7:13-14), the Kingdom of the Son of Man is said to come in the midst of the wicked earthly kingdoms. For that to happen, the Son of Man would need to have an earthly presence. Jesus indeed came to the earth to establish His reign and Kingdom. While speaking to His chosen followers, Jesus identified Himself as the Son of Man. “When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” (Matthew 16:13). Further, he came bringing healing for both the body and the soul. “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,)”

Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house” (Mark 9:6). In working to usher in His everlasting Kingdom, the Son of Man did not stay in heaven on high. No, He came into the world at the foreordained time and labored among men to draw all into the Kingdom that would know no end. Though the Lord came to serve and minister here on earth, His Kingdom was not limited to the confines of this world. No, His eternal Kingdom would transcend this physical realm. “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36).

Death on the Cross

One near inconceivable aspect of being the Son of Man meant that our Lord had to die at the hands of those He came to save. In His conversation with the apostles, Jesus expanded on the idea of what it meant to be the Son of Man. “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” (Matthew 16:20). To most, this was the opposite of what they had come to expect. It seems that nearly all the children of Israel were anticipating and hoping for a conquering military leader who would come and vanquish the evildoers and overthrow them through war, political savvy, and brute strength. Yet, Jesus as the Son of Man, would turn those expectations on their head. As for the Lord, He would attain glory through suffering (Luke 24:26), He would bring life by means of His death (1 Corinthians 15:20), and He would offer riches through His poverty (2 Corinthians 8:9). This concept of exaltation through humiliation would perplex the people of His day and even many in this present time. Rightly did Paul declare, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent” (1 Corinthians 1:18-19). For the Jews, the scope of invitation was far too narrow. They wanted the evil Gentiles to be destroyed and overthrown. However, the prophecy of the Kingdom of the Son of Man would declare that “all people, nations, and languages” would be invited in to serve the Sovereign. This leads us to that well known passage that affirms Jesus as the Son of Man and demonstrates all would be welcome into his Kingdom. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:14-16). Again, part of being the Son of Man meant that Jesus would have to suffer and die on the cross. But thanks be to God there is more to the story!

His Second Coming

Though men do not know the day nor hour, it is certain that Jesus will return. “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:36-37). His second coming will mark the end of this present age, and all men will be confronted with eternity. Further, His second coming will reveal His glory and allow for His sovereign and righteous judgement (Matthew 25:31-46). In fulfilling the prophecy as the Son of Man, our Lord would not only overcome the evil in the world, but He would make a way for His subjects to live forever, and He would with great rejoicing, return for His loving and devoted followers.

Final Thought

I will allow our Lord to have the final word concerning His ministry as the Son of Man. When asked directly if He was in fact the long awaited and prophesied deliver, Jesus left no doubt, “But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:61-62).

Special Thanks

To those who volunteered to teach our Bible classes! We will be studying God's plan for the home. Our students will be blessed!

PRAYER LIST

Current: Rosetta Vargas is having medical tests done. Debbie Lynn has had a stroke and is in Brandon Hospital, Brenda Lynn is doing some better
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.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

YOUTH PARTY, Saturday Dec. 7th at the Willcut's Home. Begins at 4:00 pm. Bring an ornament to exchange. See Shannon for any questions.
ALL AGES PARTY, Saturday, Dec. 14th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. Bring finger foods to share and a white elephant gift if you plan to participate in the gift exchange.

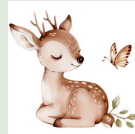
Elders, Deacons, and Preacher Meeting
 Sunday December 8
 Please get with one of them if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

FSOP Ladies Class
 Study of First John
 4:20-5:13
 December 10, 2024
 7:00 PM
 On Line only.
 Teacher: Susan Stearsman



Baby Showers

Come help us celebrate with Casey and Emily Paulin.
 Sunday, December 29 after evening service
 Please bring finger foods to share.



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)

Scheduled to Serve in November

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
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Wednesday, December 4, 2024

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

Sunday, December 8, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"Putting Faith to Work" (Pt. 2)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Steven Ford
Q&A (Psalm 51:1-5)	

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	McCarters's
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Brian Williams
Lord's Table (both)	Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Open/Close Building	Brain Kenyon
Attendance Cards	---
Sound Booth (both)	Jason

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	S&M Paulin
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Josh Potvin

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Cam'ron Bailey

How We Are Giving

November 17	\$7,906.00
November 24	\$5,218.50
December 1	\$8,598.45
Contribution Average	\$6,957.41
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!



"Faith In A Nutshell"



I can't count all the times (or ways) I've heard it said that as Christians, we need to or should have faith in God. As my understanding of God, His nature and relationship with mankind expands, I've come to the realization that having faith in Him is more than just mere assent to His existence and power. It's not enough to simply acknowledge that there is indeed a higher power. Sure, that's a great start, but certainly not the heart of the matter. James 2:19 states that devils also believe and tremble. I like to think that they are so overwhelmed by the unexplainable awesomeness of God that they actually tremble! Imagine that!

So, if belief lies at the surface of faith, what then, is embedded in its core? What is this element that will set us apart or prompt us to respond beyond mere trembling. The answer, as stated in James 2 is really quite simple. Action! "...Faith without works is dead..." This is akin to the adage we are familiar with: "action speaks louder than words". This is true of the faith we are called to have; a faith that moves us to be active participants in God's purpose.

That being said, the all-important question which arises is: how does one demonstrate this work of faith in their day to day lives? One example cited in James 2:15 that we can all relate to: if a brother or sister is naked or hungry we need to provide clothing and food (action). It is not enough to wish them well and bid them adieu. Some might say that helping is the decent, humane thing to do. There are many people in the world who are helping the needy, some of whom don't make any claim to faith. This is a valid point. The difference is, if we profess to have faith in God we are compelled to help each other. This is part of what God wants us to do.

We can also show our faith by telling our friends or family about the Lord and how He has worked in our lives. Recall that the mission of Christ falls into three broad categories: glorifying God, seek and save the lost and benevolence. Therefore, our acts of faith should demonstrate such.

By proclaiming faith in God we have accepted the innate responsibility of telling, and more importantly, modeling what that faith looks like. If not we run the risk of being called the H word: hypocrites. So let is not grow weary in well doing (Gal.6:9) as our ultimate goal is to be acknowledged by Him as a good and Faithful servant.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com



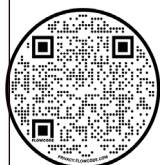
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:11



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