



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 48 December 1, 2020

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

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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.

EMAIL

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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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.

12 Reasons You Should Read The Entire New Testament This Month

Hiram Kemp

1. We Live Under the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15-17). We can study, learn, and benefit from the Old Testament, but we are not under the Old Testament (Rom. 7:1-6; 15:4). Paul described the new covenant as being more glorious than the old covenant given to Moses (2 Cor. 3:6-8). Since we live under this covenant, we should do all that we can to become acquainted with its message (Ephesians 3:3-5).

2. It Does Not Take a Long Time (Eph. 5:16). The ESV translates Ephesians 5:16 this way, "making the best use of the time." We should use our time wisely especially because it is limited (Psa. 89:47). One can read the entire New Testament this month by spending just 30 minutes a day reading eight to nine chapters each day. We typically spend 30 minutes scrolling on our phone or watching television. It would be great to come to the end of the month and have completed the entire New Testament. It does not take a long time to do this. You could listen to four chapters on the commute to work or school and listen to four more on the way home. Or you could read four chapters in the morning and four in the evening. It can be done.

3. We Will Be Judged by the New Testament (John 12:48). Jesus says that we will be judged by the words that He has spoken, which should motivate us to read all of the words from Him (John 12:48). Paul wanted to preach the whole counsel of God because humanity will be held accountable for their response to God's message (Acts 20:26-27). What a shame to come before God and be unfamiliar with His New Testament. Instead of being fearful of judgment because of some part of the Word we have overlooked, we can be confident knowing we have read and trusted in God's New Testament completely (1 John 4:17-18). One of the books that will be opened on the day of judgment is the Bible, so we should open it and read it now (Revelation 20:12).

4. We Need EVERY Word of God to Live (Matthew 4:4). Jesus told Satan that man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). Jesus' quote comes from the Old Testament, but it also applies to the New Testament (Deut. 8:3). Jesus was specific when He said we need every word from God to live. We are not living up to our full potential or at our full capacity if we have not read all of God's Word. You should read the New Testament in its entirety this month so your life can be enriched by all that God has revealed to us in the new covenant.

5. It is Profitable (2 Timothy 3:16). Scripture is described as profitable (2 Tim. 3:16). The word Paul used for profitable means that it is beneficial. Our lives are benefited and improved by reading and applying the message of scripture. If you read Matthew through Revelation this month, you will be profited in the best way by the best message. God recorded and preserved scripture for our benefit. If we fail to read the Bible or if we skimp in our Bible reading, we are the ones who are missing out.

6. Scripture Equips Us for Every Good Work (2 Timothy 3:17). We are to be doers of the word and not simply hearers of God's message (James 1:22). We are to do good to everyone with each opportunity we have (Gal. 6:10). However, it is only from reading and meditating on the Bible that we learn which works are good. The Bible tells us what works God approves of and many of the ways we can carry out the work He has prepared for us to do (Eph. 2:10).

7. Wisdom Concerning Salvation (2 Timothy 3:15). Reading through the New Testament makes us wise concerning salvation (cf. Acts 16:30). The Old Testament tells us that Jesus is coming, but the New Testament tells us that He came and is coming again (Acts 1:9-11; Galatians 4:4). Only by reading the New Testament in its entirety can we know the plan of salvation and what we must do to be saved (Acts 2:37-38). We can become biblically informed concerning how to share the truth with others and point them to God as well. We read of how to walk in the light and remain in a saved condition as Jesus continually cleanses us (1 John 1:7; 5:13).

8. The Gospel is Good News (Mark 1:15). It is the good news of Jesus Christ. The gospel is God's power to save humanity (Romans 1:16). Paul was eager to preach it, and we should be both eager to preach it and eager to read it (Romans 1:15). The gospel must not be limited to what is said in the first four books in the New Testament. The entire New Testament contains the message from the Holy Spirit about Jesus and His kingdom. More than mere duty, we should view Bible reading as delightful. We should want to read the Bible because it is good news in a world filled with bad news. In a world of negativity, make December the month that you drench yourself in the optimism found in Scripture.

9. Our Time is Short (Hebrews 9:27). Our time on earth is shorter than we realize (Psalm 90:9, 90:12). Some people plan to finish the New Testament one of these days, but they just are not sure when that will be. It has been said that "one of these days often turns out to be none of these days." Do not put off until tomorrow what can be done today. We are not promised another day or year (Proverbs 27:1). Read the entire New Testament because the day may come when you are unable to do so.

YOUTH GROUP by Vince Daugherty

Jesus tells a parable about a rich fool in Luke 12:16-21. Because the rich man had so much stuff, he had the bright idea to build even bigger houses to store all of his stuff. Jesus told His disciples, "**Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.**" (Luke 12:23). A very important lesson we ought to learn at a young age is that there is more to life than the things that we can get.

#1 When God blesses us, we ought to be thankful.
(I Thessalonians 5:18)

#2 When God blesses us, we, in turn, ought to bless others. (II Corinthians 9:13)

#3 When God blesses us, we cannot forget Him in our plans. (James 4:15).

The rich man was a fool because he failed to remember God, he failed to use his blessings to bless others, and he failed to keep God in his plans for the future. In the season of getting, make sure we are wise and learn the lessons from Jesus's parable about the rich fool. We do not know when our time on this earth will come to an end. Let us be found doing good.

10. A Message of Grace (John 1:16). The New Testament is a message of grace. Many of the letters open by mentioning the grace and peace that comes from Jesus Christ. Jesus came to bring grace and truth (John 1:16-17). The more of the New Testament that we read, the more we will appreciate the grace of God. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). The last verse in the New Testament mentions the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:21). If we are to be people of grace, we need to know the message of grace.

11. More about Jesus (Luke 24:44). Jesus told His disciples that the entire Old Testament was ultimately pointing to Him (Luke 24:44). There is no secret that the entire New Testament is about Him as well. When we read the New Testament, we are learning more about Jesus. We learn about how He loved, taught, forgave, and prayed. Daily we are allowing ourselves to be changed into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18). Read the New Testament this month, and allow your heart to be transformed more into the heart of Christ.

12. We Can Do More Than We Think (Hebrews 5:11-14). Sometimes we underestimate ourselves. Some people think the entire New Testament in one month is a daunting task. We do need to challenge ourselves, launch out into the deep, and grow in our faith. The writer of the book of Hebrews challenged his readers to mature in the right way and leave spiritual infancy behind (Hebrews 5:11-14). Let us motivate and test ourselves to be sure that we are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (2 Peter 3:18). Read the entire New Testament with us this month, you will be glad you did (Psalm 1:1-3)!

Senior Saints by John McShane

Today I want to look at envy. In *1 Peter 2:1*, Peter says "**Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.**" One definition of envy is, "a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck".

Envy can cause us to forget about the good things that have gone on in our life. The choices we made as we went about everyday life put us where we are today. We can look back and be proud of what we have accomplished over the years.

Envy should have no place in our lives today. Cherish what you have, get past the mistakes that were made, and enjoy the rewards that life has given you. If we can be content with what we have, life will be so much more enjoyable.

Remember, the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence. Here are two passages in the Bible that speak of being content with what we have:

Philippians 4:11-13 "**Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am...**";

1 Timothy 6:6-12 "**But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.**"

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt	Brenda Mask	Carol Edmonson
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt	Linda McShane	Wayne Shearer
Darlene Thompson	Bernetta Green	Ray Nashick
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson	Melody Baxter
Ciera Edwards	Brian Smith	Geny Johnson
Kathy Nester	Jim Turner	Margaret Coone
Sharon M. Washington	Annette Phillip	George Davis
Joyce Williams	Ron & Judy Ford	Nikki Williams
Antoine & Marcella Swain		

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Wayne Shearer has tested positive for Covid. He is requesting prayers.

Bernetta Green's hip surgery went well. She is staying with family in Orlando during her recovery.

Nikki Williams is having surgery on December 8.

Sisters Sending Sunshine

Ladies of SFA, remember your sister!

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11

Rejoicing in hope

Romans 12:12

The Lord recently added two more souls to His kingdom.

Let's welcome our new sister and brother in Christ:

Terri Brunson (11/25/20)

Timmy Smith (11/29/20)

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." 1Cor. 1:6

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CARD GIVING!

Our youth and helpers will be hand delivering your cards throughout December. A basket is on the foyer table. Simply drop your cards in the basket, and they will be delivered for you.

Thank you

There is a card from the Whitacre family on the bulletin board.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
Devo Zach Jones
Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

Sunday, December 6, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Roy Johnson
"Standing in Your Place"
Judges 7:21

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"The Queen's Request"
Esther 5:1-7

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) David Anderson
Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
Announcements Brian Kenyon
A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Scripture reading/Prayer Allen Grimes
Lord's Table Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer Josh Potvin

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Jeff & Rene' Bingle
P.M. Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Scripture reading/Prayer David Williams
Lord's Table Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Rick Kenyon
Devo Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer David Deal

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

To side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.

Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 15	\$6,889.00
Nov. 22	\$5,917.00
Nov. 29	\$7,414.00
Contribution Average	\$7,123.39

A Product Requires a Process (Jude 24)

The same is true of our Christian walk. It takes a process for us to become the kind of Christian we should be, but Jesus Christ is Lord of the Process and the process is divine. That doesn't mean we'll always understand His methods. It is a mystery to me how God can take something so imperfect as my life and turn it into an agent for His glory. Speaking for me, one of the greatest frustrations of walking through the daily walks of life as a Christian is that I don't always get to see how the bits and pieces of who I am fit into the big picture of God's plan. It's tempting at times to see my life as all disjointed fragments, such as a meal here, a meeting there, a carpool, phone call, and sack of groceries. Yet, I know I am called as God's child to believe by faith that they do add up, that in some way, every simple scrap of my life, every step, and every struggle, is in the process of being fitted together into God's vast and perfect pattern. So Ladies, always remember, our very scattered pieces are what God uses to make a kaleidoscope transforming "the disorder into beauty and symmetry."



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFER PROJECT

The list of suggested items for the stockings is in the basket on the foyer table.

If you'd prefer to donate money, please see Rene' Bingle.

The last day to bring stocking items is December 13.

For more details, see Rene'.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- 12/2 - Quarterly challenge
- 12/5 - Youth Group Service Project
(See Vince for details)
- 12/6 - Winter quarter begins
- 12/6 - Lads 2 Leaders guest speaker, a.m. service
- 12/6 - Fellowship in-service, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/13 - Lads 2 Leaders activity
- 12/13 - Elders, deacons, preachers meeting, 4:00 pm
- 12/13 - Donations for stocking stuffers due.
(See Rene' Bingle for details)
- 12/19 - Youth Group Christmas party & caroling

Check bulletin board for details!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"THE BEGINNING
OF WISDOM IS THIS:
GET WISDOM, AND
WHATEVER YOU GET,
GET INSIGHT"

PROVERBS 4:7