



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

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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.

WEB PAGE

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

I Have Sinned, pt. 2 **Luke 15:18**

Joshua Cantrell

When He Said I Have Sinned, He Acknowledge God

The phrase “I have sinned” includes the word “sin.” Without God, there is no such thing. To be honest and admit that we have sinned is also to acknowledge the God we have sinned against. David spoke for himself, but included humanity, when he said, “Against thee, thee only have I sinned” (Psa. 51:4). Joseph also recognized that if he had sinned, his sin would be against God (Gen. 39:9).

All sin is ultimately against God. The boy said, “I have sinned against heaven” (Luke. 15:18). God’s perfect character is the ultimate standard of good. Sin is not local, communal, or global; it is personal. All sin is against heaven! Paul spoke of the whole world — Jew and Gentile — when he wrote, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

If there is no God, there is no sin. If there is sin, then there is a God who has been sinned against. Those who admit sin admit God; those who refuse to admit their sin also refuse to admit God. This young man recognized that his decisions were not simply abasing his earthly father, but first and foremost, they were against his heavenly Father. Everyone should say what he said — “I have sinned against heaven” — because, friend, if you have ever sinned, you did so abasing God. When we say “I have sinned,” we reject atheism and come home to the Father of our spirits (Heb. 12:9).

When He Said I Have Sinned, He Acknowledged His Created Nature

Human beings are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). When we admit our sin, we acknowledge that we are a unique creation, not animals. There is no majesty to humanity. The record of Psalm 8 reveals that we are crowned with glory and honor. David’s inspired account is that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psa. 139:14).

Humans and angels are the only part of God’s creation ever charged with sin (2 Pet. 2:4; Rom. 3:23). However, only human beings are recorded in Scripture as admitting it (Psa. 51:4). When we say “I have sinned,” we must appreciate the fact that we are the only ones on earth who can. No animal has ever said “I have sinned!” To admit sin is to admit we are not animals.

The refusal of atheists and humanists to admit their sin is in part what makes them believe they are animals. This belief is no light matter. If humans are animals, then humans are no different than any other animal. Animals cannot be charged with sin; therefore, killing a human would be equal to killing an ant. If humans are animals, then there would be nothing special or significant about us above any other animal. This is precisely what atheists and humanists believe.

The young man of Luke 15 certainly did not believe such foolishness. In recognizing his own nature, he also validated the nature of other humans. The boy said he had sinned against his father. He recognized that his father was worthy of better treatment than he had given. He realized that his father was significant. He did not apologize to his fellow pen mates. He had not sinned against the pigs. He went home and apologized to his father. His actions teach forcefully that what we do to each other matters in heaven and on earth. “Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this

is right” (Eph. 6:1). “Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Honor the king” (1 Pet. 2:17).

When the young man said, “I have sinned,” he acknowledged his Divine creation. He acknowledged that he was made a little lower than angels. He acknowledged that he was crowned with glory and honor. Though he shared the pen with pigs, he was the only one in the pen who could own his sin, change his mind, acknowledge his God, get out, and go home. When we said, “I have sinned,” we reject godless evolution and humanism; we esteem ourselves and others as being made a little lower than angels.

When He Said I Have Sinned, He Acknowledged God’s Word

Sin is not simply against God’s perfect character. It is also against God’s revelation. John tells us that sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). Paul informs us that where there is no law, there is no transgression (Rom. 4:15). Therefore, when this young man acknowledged his sin, he also acknowledged God’s revelation. God has not abandoned the world, leaving us to ourselves. God has communicated with man through His word (1 Cor. 2:8-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore, no man is free to do that which is right in his own eyes, but every man must bring his life into harmony with God. Like the young man’s father, our heavenly Father has spoken to us. Our lives boil down in large part to this single choice: will we listen to God or men? There is no comparison to benefit and outcome for our lives and eternal souls when we obey the Lord. God has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). In contrast, man cannot direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23). Our steps, or lives, will be ordered by someone. We will either listen to God or

we will go our own way (Rom. 6:16). The young boy went his own way. Read again the personal pronouns.

Some reject God by suggesting that His rules are restrictive. They suggest they want to be liberated from God’s tyranny. Maybe this is how the young man felt. Maybe this prompted him to leave his father’s house. What young and old must realize, however, is that no man ever escapes rules. He simply replaces one set of rules for another.

William Provine put it this way, “No inherent moral or ethical law exist, nor are there absolute guiding principles for human society. The universe caress nothing for us and we have no ultimate mentoring in life” (qtd. in Noebel 193). This is the sad and lamentable position one is forced to take who will not admit his sin. If there is not God, there is no standard by which one could call anything sin. Without God, there is no universal moral or ethical law. Morality as such would simply be what one chooses or refuses to do. Every man would be a law unto himself. As much, having no rules becomes the rule.

It would not matter how heinous or egregious the act, when God is rejected, the only conclusion can be that there is nothing absolutely right or wrong. Therefore, there can be no sin. Evolutionists may say they do not like certain sins, but their position allows sin and some of them even suggest that the one who does sin is not even responsible for his actions.

Youth Group News

Saying Sorry

For children who are in trouble, saying sorry can be a difficult thing to do. (Saying sorry as an adult can be difficult, too.) Sometimes we have to say sorry about something, but we don’t really mean it. We may say the words, but our face and our body tell a different story. They reveal that we are not really sorry but just saying sorry to get it over with. In Jesus’s day, people would tear their garments to show that they were sorry. Sometimes people would tear their garments to show that they were sorry, but it was just for show, they were not really sorry. God knows our hearts though. He can tell when we are really sorry. Joel says, “*rend your heart, and not your garments*” (Joel 2:13). We cannot fake out God. When we make a mistake, say sorry and mean it. Not only can people usually tell if you don’t mean it, God will definitely know. God is merciful and is willing to forgive us when we mess up. When you say sorry, make sure you mean it from the heart.

SENIOR SAINTS

by John McShane

This week we look at adultery. Romans 13:9, in part, reads, “Thou shall not commit adultery.” The legal definition of adultery is, Consensual sexual relations when one of the participants is legally married to another. Like many other sins today, the word adultery has been put aside in favor of words that give a better spin to the sin. Cohabitation, friends with benefits, and love affair are some of these words. The following came from an article I found while researching adultery. “He who commits adultery is devoid of sense; only one who would destroy himself does such a thing. He will meet with disease and disgrace; his reproach will never be expunged. The fury of the husband will be passionate; he will show no pity on his day of vengeance. He will not have regard for any ransom; he will refuse your bribe, however great.” I have seen the results of adultery in other congregations that I have been a member of, and they are not pretty. All members of both families are affected and have long-lasting effects. Besides sexual adultery, we also have to be aware of spiritual adultery. In Proverbs 6:32-35, the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea indicate that God viewed Israel’s worship of idols as spiritual adultery. Have we idols that come before our God? The result of any adultery relationship is contained in 1 Corinthians 6:9, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,”

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Carol Edmonson - health
 Bernetta Green - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg
 Neyome Brunson - strength

John & Linda McShane
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - health
 Darlene Thompson - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - pain; blood clot
 Virginia Walker - back pain

Recent requests:

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

MISSION SUPPORT

Casey and Emily Paulin are moving to Huron, South Dakota, very soon to begin their mission work. They are still behind on meeting their monthly budget. If you would like to help them, above and beyond your first day of the week contributions, please earmark your checks or let the eldership know. Please include a support intent form located in the foyer with your 1st check. (ROMANS 10:13-15)

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT

We are thankful the Kemps are safe, but their area was damaged badly by recent tornadoes. The SFA church will be sending funds to Lehman Avenue church of Christ for relief. If you would like to add to that contribution, above and beyond your first day of the week contributions, please earmark your checks or let the eldership know. (2 COR. 8:1-5)

'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.



Please join us for a fingerfood fellowship to celebrate **Jonathan "Jonny" Singh** for graduating from the *Florida School of Preaching* **Sunday, December 19, 2021** after evening worship. Please remember we will have guests when bringing fingerfood, desserts, and/or drinks.



Pantry Request:

\$ 10 gift cards from Publix
 (will be used in an upcoming opportunity to serve - more details soon)

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Jonny Singh
 Devo Josh Cantrell
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "When Satan Comes to Worship"
 Genesis 4:8-10

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Brian Kenyon
 "A Necessary Tool in Winning Souls"
 1 Cor. 9:19-23

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Bobby Sheumaker
 Greeter Bingle
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Wayne Shearer
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard

6:00 P.M.

Greeters E&C Smith
 P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Allen Grimes
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Alex Parramore

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

Announcements Stacey Paulin
 Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Zach Jones
 Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney

Upcoming Events

December

18 - Wreaths Across America
 19 - FSOP graduation
 24 - Office closed
 25 - Christmas
 31 - Annual bonfire
 31 - Office closed

January

2 - fellowship in-service
 9 - Elders meeting
 17-20 - FSOP lectureship



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov 28 \$6,440.00
 Dec 5 \$7,709.00
 Dec 12 \$6,854.00
Contribution Average \$6,924.84
Weekly budget \$7,663.43



I recall getting dressed one day, and my husband said to me “You don’t look like sister Cieara.” I paused to look at what I had on and saw that he was right. What I was wearing did not reflect Christ. I remembered that Luke 9:23 tells me to deny myself. That includes clothes that may make me feel attractive. I thought to myself, “who are you trying to attract?” I recognized that what I wear had an effect on more than just myself. I didn’t want to be a stumbling block (Romans 14:13) to anyone, so I change my clothes. Jesus said in John 5:44, “How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?” This verse tells me that it doesn’t matter if the world approves of my clothes because I must honor God above all. I’m told in 1 Timothy 2:9 to dress modestly with shamefacedness and sobriety. I want people to see Jesus in me, so my love for God compels me to obey His word. I choose to wear His armor!



Thank you for visiting

Shirley Willis

Delores Putman

Darnell & Jane Kirkland

Leah Lobban

Albert Bess



Florida School of Preaching 47th Annual Lectureship

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The Power of His Resurrection

Brian R. Kenyon, Director ♦ Broadcast Live at fsop.net



January 17-20, 2022



Make plans to join us for this study of the power of Jesus’ resurrection and how it affects Christian living from this day unto the last day!

Preorder lectureship book by Jan. 14, 2022, for \$20 +tax. Regular price, \$25

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

- Jesus

John 14:15

