The South Florida Avenue
MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 68 No.01 01-06-15

ELDERS
David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS
Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER
Robert McAnally
(863) 682-3600

ASSOCIATE MINISTER
Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARY
Michelle Paulin

OFFICE PHONE
(863) 682-4702

SUNDAY SERVICES
Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF
Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS
Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....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 PAGES
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Sheepfold Blessings

Jesus portrayed Himself as the Good Shepherd in John 10:1-18. This discourse came after Jesus gave sight to a blind man who did not at first even know who Jesus was. The Son of God proved Himself time and time again, even though some people still would not accept Him. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus, obviously has sheep that belong to Him. Jesus stated, "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own" (Jn. 10:14). Jesus wants more sheep, who "will hear My voice" and share in the blessings He so willingly supplies (Jn. 10:16). In His declaration that He is the only "door" of His spiritual sheepfold (Jn. 10:7-10), Jesus gives three blessings that await all who enter the sheepfold by Him.

Salvation

All who enter by Jesus "will be saved." Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" (Jn. 10:7-9a). Much light is shed on the term "saved" by noting that "All who ever came before Me [Jesus] are thieves and robbers." The "all who came before" are those who, like the thief and robber to the literal sheepfold, sought to "steal, kill, and destroy" the spiritual flock. These would be the false messiahs and any "wolf in sheep's clothing" who either claimed messiahship for himself or prevented others from accepting the true Messiah (Mt. 23:15, 29-33; 24:23-24). These would also include the Pharisees because "their chief purpose was to fleece the flock not to feed it" (cf. Ezk. 34:1-6), evident by their laying "many heavy burdens on the people" (cf. Mt. 23:14; Lk. 11:39-52) (Woods 207).

The three verbs describing their intent—"to steal, and to kill, and to destroy"—are the antithesis of salvation (Jn. 10:10a). Though the word translated "kill" can mean sacrifice (Mk. 14:12; 1 Cor. 5:7), the more common meaning is to slaughter (Mt. 22:4; Lk. 15:23). The word translated "destroy" as used here means to lose and may well signify eternal destruction (it is the same word in John 3:16, "should . . . perish"). The salvation awaiting all who enter through Jesus, the only "door," ultimately refers to the salvation from sin through obedience to the Gospel, but is pictured here as a member of the flock, completely saved and protected from any thief and/or robber who, like the devil, is walking about "like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8)!

Security

All who enter by Jesus "will go in and out and find pasture" (Jn. 10:9b). This is a reference not just to the nourishment Jesus provides but also to the routinely secure life of the flock. This is reminiscent of a verse in the Great Shepherd psalm, "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters" (Ps. 23:2). This conveys the peace and tranquility pictured by Jesus. Lying down in "green pastures" and by "still waters" shows total absence of fear. Sheep must be unafraid before they will lie down. Even fast rushing waters will scare them. The Shepherd in this psalm, unlike the "thief and robber," thinks and provides in terms of His flock. He will always provide security and nourishment when needed. Thus, "He restores my soul" (Ps. 1:3a). As literal sheep in green pastures and beside still waters are strengthened, so also is the person who enters Jesus, the "door" to the sheepfold.

People should avoid allegorizing John 10:1-10 by thinking every little detail should have a corresponding element in the plan of salvation or in the New Testament church. For example, some will try to see something that is not there in the "going in and out" of the sheepfold, as if it were teaching that denominationalism were acceptable or that the "once saved, always saved" doctrine were true. As with the parables, the picture Jesus paints with the door and the sheepfold was not meant to have an exact parallel in every detail. It is the overall picture that gives the specific meanings to Jesus' applications. The "going in and out" simply refers to the routine security and constant sources of nourishment involved in the true flock of God!

Surplus

All who enter by Jesus "have life, and . . . have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). Twice in this verse Jesus says "they may have." In both instances, the meaning in the original language is that they may "keep on having" life, and "keep on having" abundant life (Robertson 178). The only life that one may "keep on having" is eternal life. Thus, while Christians have a much more meaningful life here on earth (cf. Ps. 23:6; Pr. 3:13-18; Mt. 5:13-16; 2 Cor. 4:7), the ultimate fulfilment of John 10:10 is eternal life in the presence of God (cf. Rev. 21:1-7, 22-24; 22:1-5). The word translated "more abundantly" in the phrase, "that they may have it [life] more abundantly," means "to have a surplus" (Robertson 178); "bountiful . . . overflowing in extent," to the point of "continuous overflowing—a never-ceasing supply of life for every faithful soul" (Woods 208). Jesus, the "door" through which the surplus of abundant, eternal life is found, is the "source of all life, particularly life that is the light of men" (Jn. 1:4 cf. Jn. 11:25; 14:6) (Pack 169).

Conclusion

When Jesus finished His Good Shepherd discourse, "there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. And many of them said, 'He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?' Others said, 'These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?' (Jn. 10:19-21). As then, so today, some people simply do not want to accept Jesus, while others are honest enough to recognize something special about Him. Do we recognize the Good Shepherd and desire to follow Him? Do we want the salvation, security, and surplus of life that can only be found in His sheepfold? If so, heed His voice recorded in the Bible and obey the Gospel today! ♥ *Brian Kenyon*

Works Cited

Pack, Frank. *The Gospel According to John*. Living Word Commentary on the New Testament. Vol. 5. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 1984.

Robertson, A. T. *Word Pictures in the New Testament—Volume 5: The Fourth Gospel and the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1932.

Woods, Guy N. *A Commentary on the Gospel According to John*. Gospel Advocate Commentaries Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate, 1984.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Dick & Joyce Burbage, Faith West, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Jimmy Puckett, & Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard,Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton.

Others: Jeanne Frye's leukemia has returned. She is the friend of Phil & Dottie Fife. Janie & Sandy Given, Ray Holler, Frances Sheffler, Bill Caroll,Frank Wood, Robie DeWitt.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 3rd: - Ladies Brunch at Central Church of Christ in Haines City at 9:00 am.

Jan. 4th: - Fellowship in Service after our evening worship.

Jan. 11th: - Lads to Leaders will meet.

Jan. 17th: - Men's Breakfast at Central in Haines City at 8:00 am.

Jan. 17th: - Ladies Day at Orange St. Church of Christ from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Registration and breakfast at 8:30 am.

Jan. 17th: - Our Youth & Devotional & Activity.

Jan. 19th - 22nd: - Florida School of Preaching 40th annual Lectureship. See bulletin board for more information.

Jan. 30th, 31st & Feb. 1st: There will be a Gospel meeting at the So. Hillsborough Church of Christ in Ruskin. Students from the FSOP will be the speakers. See bulletin board for more information.

Visitors

Tim Gangle, Justin Burt, De'Naria & De'Ajah Lanier, Mr. & Mrs. David Mohundro, Dalia & Nora.

Congratulations

To Frank & Ginny Hamby who became grandparents of Mason Alexander Garland who was born Dec. 29th, weighing in at 7lb, 12-1/2 oz. and 21 inches long. Parents are: Lee and Leigh Garland. They live in Lebanon, Virginia.

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Importance Of Doing"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

January

Sam Crow ..... **Table** ..... Fred Strickland
Tucker Sweeney ..... **Assist** ..... Josh Estridge

Sunday, January 4, 2015
9:30 A.M.
Song at Bible Class ..... Frank Hamby
Prayer ..... Kenny French
10:30 A.M.
Announcements ..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer ..... Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer ..... Ken Walker
6:00 P.M.
Song Leader ..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer ..... Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer ..... Bobby Sheumaker
Greeters ..... The Sweeney family
Att. Cards ..... Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building ..... Jason Hendrix
Wed. January 7, 2015
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer ..... Paul Romine
Closing Prayer ..... Frank Hamby

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231

January 11, 2015
9:30 A.M.
Song at Bible Class ..... Stacey Paulin
Prayer ..... Charles Paulin
10:30 A.M.
Announcements ..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer ..... David Williams
Closing Prayer ..... Fred Rapley
6:00 P.M.
Song Leader ..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer ..... Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer ..... Antonio Martin
Greeters ..... Fred & Kathy Strickland
Att. Cards ..... Sebastian Rapley & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building ..... Jason Hendrix
Wed. January 14, 2015
Song Leader ..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer ..... David Anderson
Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec 7 ..... $5,754.36
Dec 14 ..... $3,992.35
Dec 21 ..... $5,533.67
Dec 28 ..... $4,359.21
Contribution Average $4,489.70
2014 Weekly Budget $4,256.38

Don't Settle for Circular Reasoning!

"Circular reasoning" (akin to "begging the question") is when the premises needed to support a conclusion are assumed to be true but have not, in fact, been proven. To illustrate, the story is told of a field trip to a museum of natural history. The curator told the children that a certain fossil was 1.5 billion years old. A little girl asked, "How do you know the fossil is 1.5 billion years old?" The curator replied, "Because it is found in a layer of rock that is 1.5 billion years old." After a brief moment of silence, the little girl asked, "How do you know the layer of rock is 1.5 billion years old?" The curator, a bit disgruntled, responded, "Because it contains a fossil that is 1.5 billion years old." Do you see the problem with that "reasoning"? The assumed date of the rock layer was used to "prove" the date of the fossil, while, at the same time, the assumed date of the fossil was used to "prove" the date of the rock layer! Neither the fossil nor the rock was proven to be a certain age by evidence! Each was assumed! Paul said, "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Did you know the geological time-table that is so often depicted in textbooks does not exist in real life? It is simply constructed by the minds of men who assume that organic evolution is true! Yet, there is no objective evidence to support it! Do not be afraid to ask questions and demand proof in every important area of life. *Brian*

South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit No. 254

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

REMEMBER

Sunday, January 11 Lads to Leaders will meet following morning services. We appreciate all the students and mentors who sacrifice their time and offer their talents in spiritually strengthening the SFA congregation!

Saturday, January 17 Our next youth devotional and activity. Stay tuned for announcements on time and place. If you would like to host an event, check the sign-up sheet.

Thank you, South Florida Avenue church of Christ and her eldership, for supporting our youth group! May the Lord bless us all in 2015

Florida School of Preaching

Do You Understand Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

January 19-22, 2015

Young people (and those who work with them), this event will provide a great opportunity for learning, fellowship, and serving the Lord. The day it starts is Martin Luther King Day, a holiday from school. Make plans now to attend at least one day during the week!

"Pew Packers" is meeting every Sunday evening at 5:45 to learn the Bible!