



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ

MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 49 December 8, 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
(863) 682-4702

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

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

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.

What the Bible Says About Angels

Hiram Kemp

There are some subjects in the Bible that we possess a great deal of information about. Then there are other things that the Bible touches on only briefly. The secret things belong to God, but we should be sure to read and wrestle with the things revealed to us (Deut. 29:29). Some subjects are hard to be understood, or some things we wish we had more information on, but we must be content with what God has told us (2 Peter 3:16). The subject of angels is a fascinating one in the Bible. Many people are aware of their mention of scripture, but sometimes our view of angels is more informed by popular theology and cinema than scripture. We need to allow Scripture, even in its brevity, to inform us concerning the topic of angels. How angels look, function, and serve is something we can only learn by listening to God's Word on this subject. Let us notice a few things the Bible does and does not say about angels.

Myths and Misunderstandings about Angels

Angels are mentioned in 34 of the 66 books in the Bible (17 in the Old Testament and 17 in the New Testament). While some people mistakenly think that angels are mainly an Old Testament topic, they are mentioned in several important places in the New Testament, especially associated with the life of Jesus (Matt. 28:2-7; Luke 2:13-14; Acts 1:9-11). When many people think of angels, they think of cute babies or maybe even having a female face. Many who saw angels in the Bible were terrified, and every time the Bible mentions angels, it refers to them as men (Gen. 19:1, 19:5; Mark 16:5). Many times, angels are depicted in art as having wings, halos, and playing harps, but the Bible does not mention these things. On occasion, when someone dies, people say "He got his wings. God needed another angel." The Bible mentions Christians receiving a new body at the resurrection, but it says nothing about humans being reincarnated as angels (1 Cor. 15; Phil. 3:20-21).

Some religious groups exalt and worship angels, but every time someone tried to worship an angel in the Bible, they were forbidden from doing so (Rev. 19:10, 22:8-9). God is the only One worthy of worship, angels are servants who join us in worshipping God (Matt. 4:10). There are those who refer to the Devil as the former head angel. I have even heard some say he was the head angel over the music in heaven before he was cast out. The Bible does not assign any of these descriptions to Satan. Sometimes people turn to Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 as text that prove these assertions made about Satan, but these texts are referring to the Babylonian king who exalted himself and was cast down as a result of his arrogance. Though we may wish we had more information and that we could trace certain events back with specificity, we should not go beyond what is written (cf. 1 Cor. 4:6).

Angels: Creation and Fall

Since only God is eternal, this means angels must have had a beginning at some point (Psalm 90:2). Angels were created by God and enjoyed being in His presence. Everything that God created was very good in the beginning, even the angels (Gen. 1:31). When God is questioning Job, He speaks of the morning stars and the sons of God (probably a reference to angels) shouting for joy at creation (Job 38:7). Angels were those who viewed some of what God created, but they were not creators. God is to be praised because He created the angels along with everything else that exists (Psalm 148:2-5).

At some point, certain angels decided to transgress God's law, and they were punished. We are told in the New Testament that certain angels sinned, and they were cast down as a result (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). When the angels sinned, there was no scheme of redemption put in place for them like there is for us; we truly are blessed (Heb. 2:16). The sin of the angels was what motivated God to create hell. Hell was created for the Devil and his angels, not for humans (Matt. 25:41). We learn from the angels that though they were created in splendor and glory with great privileges, they could fall and suffer the consequences. We are created in the image of God and blessed above all He created, but we, too, can fall and suffer the same fate as the sinful angels (Gen. 1:26-28; Matt. 25:46).

The Role and Function of Angels

The two primary words used for angels in scripture are **malak** (in the Old Testament) and **angelos** (in the New Testament). Both of these words mean messenger. The context determines whether it is being used to describe a human messenger or an angelic one. Throughout the Old Testament, angels are messengers or those sent to serve in a variety of ways. Angels were sent to guard the tree of life (Gen. 3:24). They were sent to view the wickedness of Sodom (Gen. 19:1, 13). It was an angel that came to Manoah announcing that he would have a son named Samson (Judges 13:8-14). One angel killed 185,000 Assyrians as they stood outside Jerusalem (Isa. 37:36-38). An angel was sent to destroy Jerusalem as a result of David's sin, but he was stopped beforehand by the Lord (1 Chr. 21:14-15). Angels are God's servants, and they do what He tells them to do for His good pleasure (Psa. 103:20-21).

Angels are mentioned throughout the New Testament as well. The angel Gabriel speaks to Mary, Joseph, and Zechariah concerning the birth of Jesus and John (Luke 1).

YOUTH GROUP by Vince Daugherty - TEARS -

With children comes tears. It is a part of every kid's life. No one likes to think about times when they are sad and have cried. But, tears are an outward sign of inward feelings. Sometimes people cry when they are sad. Sometimes people cry when they are angry or frustrated. Sometimes people cry when they feel sorry for something bad that they have done. When Israel was disobedient, God punished them, and many were taken captive by other nations. When they were taken from their homes, they were sad and cried. Living far from home, many Israelites cried again longing to be back home. Some Israelites cried because they were sorry for what they had done. As a good Father, God saw their tears and heard their cries. "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again rejoicing," (Psalm 126:5,6). God did not cause them to be sad forever. He brought them back to their homes, and they were so happy. God gave us all of our feelings. Sadness and tears help us to reach out for comfort to those who can offer comfort. Why not call on the God of all comfort? Tears can be a good teacher that brings us a little closer to God.

The angels appear to the shepherds in the field to praise God (Luke 2:13-14). When Jesus overcame temptation, He was comforted by angels (Matt. 4:11), and He was comforted and strengthened by angels in Gethsemane before the cross (Luke 22:43). An angel descended from heaven and rolled away the stone from the tomb of Jesus (Matt. 28:2). An angel struck Herod because he refused to give God the glory (Acts 12:20-23), and an angel was involved in Peter's release from prison (Acts 12:7). When Paul was on a ship headed to Rome, he was comforted by an angel. Lastly, John is guided through his heavenly revelation by an angel (Rev. 22:8-9).

Angels and Christians

Seeing that the miraculous age has ceased, we can be sure that God does not use angels today in the same miraculous way He did in scripture (1 Cor. 13:8-13). The faith has been once for all-time delivered in the Bible, and miracles are no longer needed to confirm its message (Heb. 2:2-4; Jude 3). No one has seen an angel today (cf. Heb. 13:2). However, God does work providentially in the lives of His people (Romans 8:28). The Bible says angels are ministering spirits that serve those of us who are heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). We do not know all of the ways that angels serve us, but we know that they do. There is a sense in which we will judge the angels. This may be about the fallen angels and the fact that our righteous lives will condemn their rebellious behavior (1 Cor. 6:3).

Angels are interested in what God is doing in redeeming humanity (1 Pet. 1:10-12). God is saving us through Jesus Christ which interests and intrigues the angelic beings. We are often interested in angels, but the Bible says they are interested in what God is doing with us. Christians should study about angels, appreciate what the Bible says about their role and work, but we worship God.

Senior Saints by John McShane

Before Nelson Mandela left prison, he said "As I stand before the door to my freedom, I realize that if I do not leave my pain, anger, and bitterness behind me, I will still be in prison." In America today, we seem to be more polarized than I can ever remember. As I write this, it is the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. A day that brought this country together like never before. What has happened? We seem to have imprisoned ourselves inside the walls of anger and bitterness. Holding grudges does not make us strong - it makes us bitter. Forgiveness does not make us weak - it sets us free. Holding grudges lets another control us. Let's not imprison ourselves. The Bible has much to say about forgiveness, and we need to set an example for this country by heeding it. In Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." And in Colossians 3:13, "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." And the one verse that should weigh heavily on our minds is Matthew 6:14-15, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

PRAYER LIST

Bob Pratt
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt
 Darlene Thompson
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Ciera Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Joyce Williams
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Jim Turner
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford

Carol Edmonson
 Wayne Shearer
 Ray Nashick
 Melody Baxter
 Geny Johnson
 Margaret Coone
 George Davis
 Nikki Williams

(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	

Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

RESPONSES

Jerry Pollard, Samantha Skaggs' fiance', came forward repenting for living in sin.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Rejoicing in hope

Romans 12:12

The Lord recently added another soul to His kingdom.

Let's welcome our new sister in Christ:

Samantha Skaggs (12/3/20)

"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.

TODAY - Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Thank you

There is a card from Fran Gabaldon on the bulletin board.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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

Sunday, December 13, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "Jesus' Heavenly Ministry"
Hebrews 7:25

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "Q&A"

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) Phil Fife
 Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
 Song/prayer before class Matt Webb
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table George Davis
 Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Phil & Dottie Fife
 P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Andre Medley
 Lord's Table George Davis
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Ian Enamorado
 Devo Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

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. 22	\$5,917.00
Nov. 29	\$7,414.00
Dec. 6	\$9,085.00
Contribution Average	\$7,163.42

We have so many earthly issues and causes to consider as we live our lives. Sadly, we can let this polarize us when others make different choices than we think they should, especially in our current circumstance.

When I became a Christian, I forfeited demanding my rights (Galatians 5:13-14). At this point, I decided to cling to the cross (Galatians 2:20) and the word of God instead of any earthly platform, cause, or political symbol, statue, flag, ideal, etc.

Yes, caring is okay... but is demanding your rights your hill to die on?

As a Christian, the only hill I should care about dying on is Calvary. I should be more concerned with leading others to that hill and helping them find life at the foot of the cross than anything else. Jesus died on that hill for us so that we might live in eternity with him and help others do the same. Jesus did not die so we could squabble over partisan issues, statues, or whether masks are really needed. As Christ's body, we are called to uplift and edify each other (1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

Choose your hill wisely.



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'.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



"AND BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER,
TENDERHEARTED,
FORGIVING ONE
ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD
IN CHRIST FORGAVE
YOU."
EPHESIANS 4:32

**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653
Return Service Requested



Youth Group Christmas Caroling

Saturday,
December 19, 2020

Meet at the building at
3:30 p.m.

After caroling, we will go to the
Daugherty's home for a
Christmas party.