

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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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.

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.

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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

To God Be the Glory!

Brian R. Kenyon

Glorifying God is the supreme priority of mankind! It seems that the religious world misses this point. Although such things as preaching the Gospel, evangelizing, and giving aid to the needy are important, they are not our number one priority. Glorifying God is! It is possible to do those activities listed above without glorifying God (cf. Phil. 1:15-16; Mt. 6:1-4). God created humanity to be His glory. God spoke through Isaiah, "Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him" (Isa. 43:7). Although this is a personification of Israel, the figurative language is effective because of what lies behind it literally—God made us to glorify Him! Without Jesus, it would be impossible for us to glorify God because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). What God did at Calvary makes possible the transformation of being a person of dishonor to God (because of sin) to being a person who is "to the praise of the glory of His grace" (Eph. 1:3-6, 11-14). "To God be the glory" must be our primary purpose in this life!

God And "Glory"

Various forms of the word "glory," or "glorify," occur hundreds of times in the Old and New Testaments. Thus, the word "glory" must be defined according to the context. Generally, "glory" refers to brightness, radiance, splendor. Various objects are said to reflect a brightness of glory, such as angels (Lk. 2:9), the sun and moon (1 Cor. 15:41), and cherubim (Heb. 9:5). "Glory" is also used to refer to the majesty and sublimity of God's quality, evidenced by such expressions as "God of glory" (Acts 7:2, 55) and "Father of glory" (Eph. 1:17). In fact, "glory" is a characteristic of the entire Godhead. Glory is associated with the Father (Jn. 12:41; 17:5). Glory is associated with the Son: at the announcement of His birth (Lk. 2:8-11); through His miracles (Jn. 2:11); through His life on this earth (Jn. 1:14); by His visible radiance (Lk. 9:32); in His present exaltation (1 Tim. 3:16); and in His Second Coming (Mt. 16:27). Glory is also associated with the Holy Spirit (1 Pet. 4:14).

God Is To Be Glorified By Our Life

Without the blood of Christ applied to our lives, it is impossible for us to glorify God (cf. Rom. 3:23; 6:16-18). As Christians, however, we must realize that glorifying God is not just a one-time act accomplished at conversion. Glorifying God is a life-long occupation. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, (continued on page 2)

(continued on page 2)

or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). God must be glorified in our bodies. Paul wrote, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). In order to glorify God in our bodies, we must “put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry ... in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them” (Col. 3:5-7). We must use our “members,” or bodies, to glorify the Lord. Listen to Paul: “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Rom. 6:12-13). We must conduct ourselves in such a way “that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Pet. 4:10-11).

Specific Means By Which God Is Glorified

First and foremost, we glorify God by doing His will. In doing this, we must do good works. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). Obviously, these works must be visible in order for others to glorify the Father (cf. 1 Pet. 2:12). These works are done by Christians who are not ashamed to do them in the name of Christ. “Undercover Christians” are incompatible with a beaming light or a “city that is set on a hill” (Mt. 5:14). In doing God’s will, we must also “bear fruit.” Jesus said, “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (Jn. 15:8). Bearing fruit does not always mean making new converts. In the context of John 15, fruit includes a life of learning the words of Christ (Jn. 15:7a), a life of prayer (Jn. 15:7b), loving God and others (Jn. 15:9-10; 12-13), obedience (Jn. 15:10, 14), and joy in Christ (Jn. 15:11).

Second, we glorify God by being united. Jesus prayed for all future disciples that “they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us ... And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one” (Jn. 17:21-22). This unity can only be accomplished through mutual indwelling. Just as the Father and Son mutually indwell one another, the Christian and God must mutually indwell, which can only be accomplished through the Christian’s continued obedience to the Gospel (cf. Rom. 8:5-11). Obedience is the only true basis of the unity that glorifies God (1 Cor. 1:10 cf. Eph. 4:1-6).

Third, we glorify God by suffering for His sake. Peter wrote, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you ... ¹³but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified....¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1 Pet. 4:12-16). Suffering persecution glorifies God because it imitates Christ (1 Pet. 2:21-24).

Conclusion

In a limited sense, every faithful Christian presently shares in the glory of God (Jn. 17:22; Rom. 8:30). On the Last Day, however, God’s glory will be fully realized in eternal experience by all those who have lived their lives on earth to His glory (Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; Phil. 3:20-21). May God help each of us to glorify His name in this life—only then can “To God Be the Glory” be our eternal theme. ♥ *Brian*

Two Ways Ahead! Which Will We Choose?

Brian R. Kenyon

God told the children of Israel right before entering into the promised land, “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deut. 30:19). From this we learn two fundamental truths. First, God gives us the choice to either follow Him or not follow Him. He does not override our ability to choose. We were not created as robots. Second, God wants us to “choose life.” While God does not force us to do anything against our will, He has providentially provided the opportunity for us to choose the right way (cf. Acts 17:26-28). Will we choose the “way of life” or the “way of death”?

Jesus told His disciples, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Mt. 7:13-14). With this, Jesus immediately presents us with a choice. He even tells us which choice is correct. However, we must choose for *(continued on page 4)*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bill Long is now home from the hospital, but requests no visitors at this time. Bobby Simpson has been in the hospital with bronchitis. Ginny Hamby's testing has been postponed due to illness. Also remember Faith West, Jim Turner, Brenda Mask, Margaret Coone and Carol Eason.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Evelyn Wyatt and Sharon Edler.

Others: David Radford (nephew of Brenda Mask), Lynn Stevens, Jack Pinckert, Chrissi Fuesner, Bob McAnally, Rea Rice, Doris Smith, Joyce Stearsman, Paul Shearer, James & Ellen Shearer, JoAnn (Ginny Hamby's mother) and Ruth Brunson, (Wesley Brunson's mother).

Upcoming Events

Saturday May 19th: Men's breakfast at North Lakeland church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday May 20th: Graduation Celebration for our High School Seniors after evening services. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday May 20th: Teacher training session for those teaching next quarter at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday May 27th: Our monthly Fellowship Meal and 2nd worship service following. David William's team will have set-up and clean-up.

Monday May 28th: Memorial Day Cook-Out, Corn Roast, Hamburger, Hotdog Supper at 5:00 p.m. Games for young and old at 3:30 p.m. All food and drink provided. Cost \$2.00 a person or \$5.00 a family. Our local 1st Responders will be invited!

Monthly Fellowship Teams

A-D John McShane

E-K Jimmy Sweeney

L-P Wayne Shearer

R-Z David Williams

Meal Ministry

We are starting a Meal Ministry where we will be providing meals to those members coming out of the hospital or re-hab and needing our assistance in preparing meals. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Brenda Mask and Nona Williams are in charge if you have any questions.

Visitors

Wadi Khoury, T' Jean Thomlinson, George & Marion Beals, Victoria Stetson, Rick & Stephanie Kenyon, Klark and Karissa and Tiffany Hash, Megan & Sam.

 Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Frank Hamby **Table** Fred Strickland
 Kyle Faneuf **Assist** Dennis McCarter

Sunday, May 20, 2018
 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Chaz Hine
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer John McShane
Sound Booth Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Alex Parramore
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Wayne Shearer
Sound Booth Casey Paulin
Greeters Fifes
Att. Cards Willcut boy's
Open & Close Building C.J. Grimes

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, May 27, 2018
 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader Chaz Hine
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Anderson
Sound Booth C.J. Grimes

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sound Booth C.J. Grimes
Greeters Longfellows
Att. Cards Paul/Ian
Open & Close Building C. J. Grimes

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

April 22 \$5,772.60
April 29 \$5,469.31
May 6 \$7,588.61
May 13 \$6,681.74
Contribution Average \$5,858.59
2018 Weekly Budget \$4,887.98

Two Ways Ahead! Which Will We Choose? (continued from page 2)

ourselves the right way (cf. Josh. 24:15).

First, there is the choice of the “wide gate” and “broad way” (Mt. 7:13b). This way is very obvious and easy to find. It has no restrictions. One does not have to deliberately travel this way. It is so “wide” and “broad” that it accommodates the masses. However, at the end of this way is eternal “destruction.” Because of its ease and popularity, “many” will travel this way, only to receive the eternal torment that awaits.

Second, there is the choice of the “narrow [strait, KJV] gate” and the “difficult [narrow, KJV] way” (Mt. 7:13a, 14). This is the choice that Jesus urges us to make, but, again, we must make the choice. This way is less obvious and very difficult compared to the other way. Unlike the “wide” and “broad” way, no one can travel this way by accident.

Traveling here must be deliberate and requires much effort (Lk. 13:24). True discipleship is not easy. Could this be why so few find it? At the end of this way is eternal “life.” Which way will we choose: the way that results in eternal punishment or the way that results in eternal life? ❤️ *Brian*



Graduation Celebration

Help us give honor to our 2018 high school graduates **Alex, Shannon, Sophia, and Zsazeli!**

May 20th

Following Evening Worship!



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

Return Service Requested

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



The Mission Trip to Boquete, Panama, Is “At Hand”! Our young people and their chaperones will be departing, Lord willing, June 1, 2018, for this year’s YES II evangelistic mission trip. They are scheduled to return June 9, 2018. There will be a meeting in the north wing immediately following this Wednesday night’s Bible class, May 16. Those going should have by now read the YES II booklet. This will be the time to ask questions. We look forward to a great time spreading God’s word! We thank our elders and those who have given extra support to send these workers! Please pray for the team!



May 19 -Work day at camp
May 20 -Day of prayer for the camp’s building projects

July 1-7, 2018 Join several from SFA and area congregations attending during the Mullins/Hilliard/Faneuf week!

Save the Date VBS Saturday, July 28
 Teachers, helpers, and volunteers will be needed!



Pray for and encourage our young people as they work with this year’s L2L theme, “I Am” (Exodus 3:14) and the Book of Exodus!

Remember to bring “pop-top” cans for the food pantry! We may not always realize the people we reach through benevolence. Let’s maximize our efforts by giving the needy “user friendly” cans.

