

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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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Wisdom's Warning:

Illicit Sexual Relationships

Brian R. Kenyon

The Book of Proverbs has several sections that are introduced, “My son” (Pr. 1:8; 2:1; 3:1, etc.) or “Hear, my children” (Pr. 4:1; 5:7; 7:24, etc.). These sections constitute topics that God’s wisdom dictates parents should teach their children and grandchildren. When parents fail to give this instruction, children are much more vulnerable to being devoured by the devil (1 Pet. 5:8). The largest amount of verses dealing with this parental instruction has to do with wisdom’s warnings against illicit sexual relationships. This should tell us something! No matter the historical period of time, God knows the strong pull of sexual desire, and He wants parents to warn their children about the dangers of these relationships!

Beware of Seduction

My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, ²That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. ³For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; ⁴But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. ⁶Lest you ponder her path of life—Her ways are unstable; You do not know them. (Pr. 5:1-6)

These verses depict a father’s warning to his son about the deadly seduction of an “immoral woman [strange woman, KJV; adulteress, NAS; forbidden woman, ESV]” (Pr. 5:3). It begins with a father’s exhortation to his son to be very discrete (Pr. 5:1-2). Wisdom warns against the attractiveness of her words (Pr. 5:3-6). Although her flattering words are sweet and smooth, her end is bitter, tumultuous, and destructive. This “immoral woman” stands on shaky ground. It is so shaky, in fact, that she herself does not even know the instability of her own life.

Ruin and Regret

Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. ⁸Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, ⁹Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one; ¹⁰Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner; ¹¹And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, ¹²And say: “How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! ¹³I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! ¹⁴I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation.” (Pr. 5:7-14)

These verses depict a father's instruction about the ruin and regret that inevitably follows a relationship with an "immoral woman." First, the father warns, stay as far away as possible from her (Pr. 5:7-8). While some people seem to like to get as close to sin as possible, wisdom says stay as far away as possible! The tragedy of a young man getting too close to the "immoral woman's" house is graphically portrayed in Proverbs 7:6-27, especially verses 21-23: "With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life." Wisdom's house and the "immoral woman's" house are contrasted in Proverbs 9:1-18.

Second, the father warns, ruin and regret will surely come as the result of sexual relations with the "immoral woman" (Pr. 5:9-14). There will be physical suffering because "your honor" and "your years" are given over to others, and "your flesh and your body [i.e., the entire being] are consumed." This may include sexually transmitted diseases or physical symptoms associated with guilt (cf. Ps. 32:3-4), or perhaps both. There will also be material/financial suffering because the fruits of "your labors" will end up filling "aliens" and/or "the house of a foreigner." This may be in the form of "child support" or, even more digressive, in paying "hush money" to keep the fornication from public knowledge. There will also be psychological suffering because when the ruin is realized, the guilty son will remember the instruction he received and how that instruction was rejected (cf. Pr. 12:1).

True Satisfaction

Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. ²⁰For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress? ²¹For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths. ²²His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. ²³He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. (Pr. 5:15-21)

These verses depict a father's advice for his son to find satisfaction at home, with "the wife of your youth" (Pr. 5:15-21). Water was a very valuable commodity then. The images of a cistern, well, or fountain can refer to a wife because she, like water, satisfies desire. The "beloved" in the greatest love song, is described as "A fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And streams from Lebanon" (Song 4:15). Young men and women will find the greatest happiness only in the spouse of their youth. "Wife of your youth" refers to their first spouse, the one to whom they promised faithfulness and support. In Malachi 2:14, the prophet refers to the "wife of your youth" as "your companion And your wife by covenant." This is the one for whom marriage was created (Gen. 2:24)! According to Allen Ross (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, pg. 930), the "fountain" being "blessed" indicates that "sexual delight [with a person's legitimate spouse] is God-given" (cf. Gen. 2:18-25). Despite present culture's degrading and mocking of the sexual relationship as God ordained, physical intimacy is still a blessing from God, when enjoyed according to His will. This is another reason why the father, through the inspiration of God, told his son, concerning the wife of his youth, "always be enraptured with her love." The word translated "enraptured [ravished, KJV; exhilarated, NAS; intoxicated, ESV]" does carry the idea of a sense of intoxication. According to Duane Garrett (*Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, pg. 94), the phrase refers to "the exuberant pleasure of love ... he will be drunken with satisfaction in the pleasure she gives." Since God has provided for sexual satisfaction in the Scriptural marriage relationship, why would anyone want to pursue the deceptively destructive delights of an "immoral woman"?

Conclusion

Parents must teach their children and grandchildren about the proper relationship with the opposite sex. Parents must verbally instruct their children and grandchildren about the right and wrong kind of sexual relationships. Parents must also exemplify a Scripturally sound relationship with their spouses. Obviously, certain aspects of a marital relationship are private. However, children and grandchildren must know that mom and dad, grandmother and grandfather, are to "always be enraptured with [one another's] love." *AE Brian*

REMEMBER THE LORD IN ALL YOUR SUMMER PLANS!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ron Ford is having some health issues and medical testing done. Ray Naschick has started kidney dialysis. Woody Khoury visited the ER with back issues. Peyton Willcut is having surgery on Thursday to repair a hole in his ear. Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Larry Lester, (Toney Wilson's brother), Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle's father and Peggy Nabors

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 15th, Men's breakfast at the Central church of Christ in Haines City at 8:00 a.m. If you would like to ride in the church van, it will leave the SFA parking lot at 7:15 am.

Tuesday, June 18th, Senior Saints meeting. Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 and the presentation at 10:00 a.m.

June 20th-22nd, Weeki Wachee K-5 Camp for ages 5yr thru 5th grade. Register online at wwcc.camp/k5-weekend. Contact the Tagtow's for any questions at 863-412-0022 or 863-286-5811.

June 30th-July 6th, Central Florida Bible Camp for ages 10-18. If you are interested in sending your child, please see Vince Daugherty.

Sympathy

Emma Lou Rodgers, Virginia Walker's sister, passed away on Sunday June 2nd from an automobile accident. Please continue to keep Virginia and her family in your prayers.

Baptism

We rejoice at the baptism of Denise Gulizia on Sunday, June 9th. Let's welcome her into the Lord's family.

Address Update

Carol Eason 1919 Lakeland Hills Blvd. Room 400-A, Lakeland FL 33805. Her phone number is 863-577-9838. She would appreciate cards, calls and visits.

Mission Work Update

Dee and Alex Parramore are doing mission work in the Philippines June 12-26. Be encouraged by reading their blog: www.ParramoresInPI.blogspot.com

Thank You

Dear Church, Thank you for your sympathy cards, prayers and donations to the Florida School of Preaching in memory of Luke. I have been deeply touched by your words of condolence. I am thankful that you were there for us at this difficult time. Bobby Pratt

Dear Brothers & Sisters, Thank you so much for the calls, prayers and cards of encouragement at the passing of my sister, Emma Lou Rodgers. Your presence at the funeral meant so much to me. The beautiful flower arrangement was greatly appreciated. I love you all. Virginia Walker

SFA church of Christ, Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and kindness during this difficult time. From the Family of Geri Howell

Visitors

Mike & Liz and Justin Bosley, Jeff Childers, Jimmy & Prissy Cooper, Johnny Davidson, Heather Glass, Tiffany Hash and Megan, Mary Moore, Briana Moore, Melvin & Linda Whitsett, Sherman Williams, Denise Wilson, Charles Brown, and Stacey Wilson.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder During Services: David Anderson

Open/Close building-Tim Croson

David Williams..... **Table** Charles Paulin
Fred Strickland..... **Assist** Matt Willcut

Sunday, June 16, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Paul Romine
Prayer..... John McShane

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Ken Walker
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Greeters Walker/Kenyon
Cards..... Caelen/Cam ron

6:00 P.M

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Tyler Anderson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer..... John McShane

June- Clean-up Wayne Shearer (L-P)

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

Sunday, June 23, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Anderson
Greeters..... Longfellow/Anderson
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer..... David Deal

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| May 19..... | \$5,674.07 |
| May 26..... | \$5,515.32 |
| June 2..... | \$8,170.90 |
| June 9..... | \$5,107.45 |
| Contribution Average | \$6,588.35 |



Member Spotlight

Cam'ron Bailey



Cam'ron was born in Lakeland and has lived in this area all his life. He wants to make his career in the engineering field. His first job has been to listen and follow directions. He is currently a student going into the 5th grade. He can speak a little Spanish. His favorite drink is Sprite. His favorite dessert is vanilla ice cream. The weirdest food he has eaten is crab. In his free time, he likes to go outside and play football, basketball, and/or soccer. His most satisfying accomplishment is being born. The best advice he's been given is "Listen and follow directions."



Member Spotlight

Darlene Thompson



Darlene was born in Homestead, Florida, and she also lived in Georgia. As a child she wanted to be a nurse. Her first job was as a nurse's aid. She is now retired. She has visited the Bahamas. When she has free time, she likes to quilt, play games, and color. Her hobbies include fishing, gardening, and reading. She is good at watching babies. Her most satisfying accomplishment is becoming a child of God. The best advice she's been given is "If it's wrong at sixteen, it's wrong at sixty." She has 8 children, 29 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren.



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 . . .



We rejoice with the angels that Denise Gulizia was baptized on Sunday, June 9, 2019, following morning services (Acts 2:38, 22:16). Thank God for His grace and plan of salvation. Let's welcome our new sister!

Special Huge, Super-Hero Thank You!

to all who worked and attended VBS! Vince and his helpers did an amazing job, especially Stephanie (who went the "second mile" in decorating), the teachers and craft lady, and that wonderful kitchen & cleaning staff! To God be the glory!



Beginning this month, a designated elder will assist the preacher with invitation responses, pray for those responding, and extend a Wednesday night invitation that month. We love and appreciate our elders for their desire for us to know them better as they shepherd us and bring us closer to Jesus Christ!



2019 VBS Fun!