

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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. 71 No. 22 06-12-18

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt
John McShane

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

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.

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Truths about the Judgment Day

Hiram Kemp

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, it was the beginning of the end of this world. God began to unveil the scheme of redemption to humanity which included the hope of spending eternity in heaven with him. Jesus said that he went to prepare a place for his disciples so that we might be where he is (Jn. 14:2-3). Though there are injustices in our world, and many times the guilty individual never faces consequences, there will be a day when everyone will be judged by Jesus Christ (Rm. 2:16). Jesus said that his words would judge us in the last day (Jn. 12:48). Many people try and busy themselves with vain things so they do not have to meditate on this reality, but it is still true. There is much speculation about how the world will end or if it will end at all. Peter devoted an entire chapter in his second epistle to the judgment day. Peter gives us some truths about the judgment that we should all become familiar with and share with others as we await that great day.

There Will Always Be Mockers

When Christians say they are preparing for another world or that this world is not their home, the atheist laughs and scoffs. The unbeliever has conditioned his or her mind to think that this life is all there is, and that judgment is nothing more than a scare tactic of religious people. Peter said there were mockers in his time who said that since Jesus had not come back yet, that must mean he never would (2 Pet. 3:3-4). These mockers concluded that the world continued as it always had and that nothing was ever going to change, but they were mistaken. Peter attributed their remarks to ignorance. We should not be surprised that ignorance concerning the judgment has continued to run rampant even in our own time (2 Pet. 3:5). Like the people in the days of Zephaniah, some think that God's hands are tied, and he will not do evil or good (Zeph. 1:12).

When people make light of our warnings concerning the judgment of God, we should not be astounded. Satan has blinded the eyes of many as they have allowed him to take up residence in their hearts and block their gaze from eternal things (2 Cor. 4:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26). Mockers will persist, but this does not change the reality of the coming judgment nor should it dampen our resolve to believe it.

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Past Judgments Serve as Examples

Next, Peter called to remembrance the flood of Noah's day as evidence that God has and will bring destruction on the world. We read in the Book of Genesis of the wickedness of man stirring the wrath of God to the point that he decided to destroy the world with a flood (Gen. 6-9). Peter called for his readers to look at the way God destroyed the world then and connect the dots to the final judgment (2 Pet. 3:5-7). What God did with water in the days of Noah, He will do with fire in the final judgment. In Noah's day, people were marrying and enjoying life's festivities, and then the flood came and ended it all for them (Mt. 24:37-39). The final judgment will be the same way.

Every judgment in the Bible is supposed to teach us a lesson about the final judgment. When we read of God's judgment on Egypt with the plagues or his judgment on his own people in the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, we are supposed to learn from those events (Ex. 5-12; 2 Kgs. 17, 25). God always punishes the wicked and redeems the righteous. Those who despise his warnings and reject his invitations will suffer the consequences. The ignorance of those who mock the final judgment is tied to their ignorance of past judgments. If only they knew and paid attention to what God did with Noah and the flood, they might not be as quick to doubt. We should pay careful attention to our Old Testament and the swiftness with which the flood came and devastated those who were unprepared, lest we drift along aimlessly through life and be destroyed as well (Rm. 15:4).

God Delays for Our Good

Time is no factor with God because he dwells in eternity (Psa. 90:2). Jesus said no one knew the day or the hour when the judgment would occur, only the Father in heaven (Mt. 24:36). We must be careful not to put God on our schedule nor to look at world events and conclude that these must be signs of the second coming. They are not. There will not be any signs before the second coming. We will simply have to be ready. "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" is how Peter summarized God's relation to time (2 Pet. 3:8). This is not a precise time-table. Peter spoke figuratively to show the disparity between how we as finite people view time versus God.

The fact that Jesus has not returned is attributed to the fact that he wants people to repent (2 Pet. 3:9). Is not this amazing? The very ones who doubt the coming judgment because it has not occurred soon enough, are the very ones who benefit from God's delay. God would have everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Thus, he waits so more people can do so (1 Tim. 2:4). This is true for both the sinner who has never obeyed the gospel and the wayward child of God. Every day the sun rises, and we have breath in our bodies, we are reminded of how much God loves the world and wants people to be saved (Jn. 3:16). Are we not glad he did not return a day before we had obeyed the gospel? Many people view God as one who cannot wait to punish the sinner and send him to eternal hell. Peter, however, argues the opposite. God does not want anyone to perish and neither should we. One day, time will run out and the world will be judged, but until then, may we make good use of God's patience and kindness (Rm. 2:4).

Fire Should Refine Us

The earth will be burned up with fervent heat (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Everything in this world will be destroyed. We sing, "This world is not my home," but the truth is this world is not anyone's home because God will destroy it on the day when he judges the world. God is not going to renovate this earth. He is going to do away with it and take us to heaven with him. Peter called this "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Pet. 3:13 cf. Heb. 1:10-12). This truth should change the way we live. Since we know there is fire coming, this reality should help to refine our lives (2 Pet. 3:11,14). We should view people as more valuable than possessions, and we should redeem the time to do good (Eph. 5:16). There are many motivations for living a godly life held out in Scripture, but few are as stirring as the one Peter holds out here. Older preachers used to say, "What will matter to you when the world is on fire? Those are the only things that really matter now." We do not know when the world will end, but we should live as if any day could be the day (Rm. 12:1-2).

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SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bill Long has been admitted into L.R.M.C.

Margaret Norman suffered a heart attack on May 29th. She is at home recovering. Don Starks is under continuous care with hospice at Azaela Park. Ginny Hamby had an overnight stay at Moffitt Cancer Ctr. due to a new drug treatment. Also remember Faith West and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Lynn Stevens, Jack Pinckert, Chrissi Fuesner, Bob McAnally, Doris Smith, Joyce Stearsman, Paul Shearer, James & Ellen Shearer, JoAnn Chancey, (Ginny Hamby's mother) who has stage 4 cancer. Ruth Brunson, (Wesley Brunson's mother), Chip Bolding (bettye bolding's son), Triase Deblis (friend of Flo Duffy), Ray Parker and Warren Lane (friends of the Kirklands).

Upcoming Events

Friday June 15th: Wedding shower for Heidi Bingle and Ty Rhymes at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring a side to go with barbeque. The couple is registered at Target or Kelcey Grimes is collecting money for the money tree.

Saturday June 16th: Men's breakfast at the Central church of Christ in Haines City at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday June 21-23rd: WWCC K-5 Camp for ages 5 thru 5th grade.

Sunday June 24th: Monthly Fellowship Meal after morning service. Afternoon service will follow. John McShane's group will have set-up and clean-up

Tuesday June 26th: Trip to Bok Tower. Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$14.00 per person. All are invited! Sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Sunday July 1st: Fellowship In Service after evening service.

Saturday July 14th: The pleasure of your company is requested by Jeff & Rene Bingle at the marriage of their daughter Heidi Bingle to Ty Rhymes at 5:30 p.m. at Covington Farm Wedding and Events, 36222 Covington Rd. Dade City, FL 33525. Please R.S.V.P. on the sign up sheet in the foyer.

Sympathy

Rembert Allen, a winter visitor here for many years, passed away last Wednesday June 6th. Please keep his wife Gloria and their family in prayer. Gloria asked that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Florida School of Preaching.

Visitors

Mary Moore, Stacey Wilson, George & Marion Beals, Dustin Walling, Doug & Connie Jordan, Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam and Myles & Milan Luster.



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. Let's influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Bobby Sheumaker	Table	C.J. Grimes
Wayne Shearer	Assist	Alex Parramore

Sunday, June 17, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....	Frank Hamby
Prayer.....	Tucker Sweeney
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader.....	Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer.....	Kenny French
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Tyler Anderson
Sound Booth.....	Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	David Williams
Opening Prayer.....	Steve Hunley
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Ken Walker
Sound Booth.....	Paul Sweeney
Greeters	Bingle
Att. Cards.....	Willcut
Open & Close Building	Tim Croson

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Song Leader.....	Kyle Bingle
Opening Prayer.....	Kenny French
Closing Prayer	Paul Romine

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

Sunday, June 24, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....	Kyle Bingle
Prayer	Paul Romine
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader.....	Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer.....	Fred Strickland
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer	Wayne Shearer
Sound Booth.....	Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	David Williams
Opening Prayer.....	David Anderson
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer	Kyle Faneuf
Sound Booth.....	Casey Paulin
Greeters	Pratts
Att. Cards.....	Paul/Sawyer
Open & Close Building	Tim Croson

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Song Leader.....	Matt Willcut
Opening Prayer.....	Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer	Jason Hendrix

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 20	\$4,828.36
May 27	\$5,695.27
June 03	\$7,242.55
June 10	\$5,983.08
Contribution Average.....	\$ 5,872.28
2018 Weekly Budget.....	\$ 4,887.98

Truths about the Judgment Day (continued) Conclusion

I am not sure when was the last time we thought about judgment day, but hopefully examining what Peter said makes us more alert. People will always think judgment day is a joke, but in that day, the joke will be on them. When we read of God's judging nations and people in Scripture, we should take note. Those passages are teaching us in some minor way about the great and final judgment. The more time we have, the more prepared we should be. May we live different lives here since we know the fire is coming. Ω

If We Knew a Thief Was Coming ...

We would make sure our house was secure! Yet, Scripture teaches that "the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape" (1 Thes. 5:2-3). This passage teaches we can be certain about the uncertainty of when Jesus returns. Unexpectedness is inherent by the term "thief," and is heightened by "in the night" (cf. Mt. 24:43; Lk. 12:39; 17:24-32; 21:34-36; (continued below)



Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. (Mark 13:33)



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 . . .

Thanks for Your Support!

The evangelism team returned June 9, as scheduled. We appreciate the support of our eldership and those who contributed, anonymously and otherwise. We will have more pictures and information in next week's bulletin. With one day remaining, there were 396 doors knocked; 422 contacts; 189 Bible studies; 4 baptisms, and 1 restoration. To God be the glory!



(continued from above) 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3; 16:15). The unexpectedness of Christ's return will be disastrous to those who are not expecting it. Some will be at ease with a false sense of security. The scene is reminiscent of Old Testament Jews before the captivity (cf. Jer. 6:1, 14; 8:4-15; Ezk. 13:10-16). They were told God would never destroy His temple, so there was no need for those in Jerusalem to worry. These deceived people were wrong then, and they are wrong now (cf. 2 Pet. 3:3-7). Those not expecting Christ's coming will be tragically surprised. "Sudden" describes the startling nature of the event (Lk. 21:34). "Destruction" here is not annihilation, but eternal loss of fellowship with God (cf. 2 Thes. 1:9; 1 Tim. 6:9). "Labor pains upon a pregnant woman" is used here to refer to the painful certainty of "destruction." That is, when the time has come for a pregnant woman to deliver her baby, there is nothing stopping that child from exiting the womb. The labor pains cannot be avoided! Escape from standing before God in judgment will be impossible when Jesus returns! Let us not be lax in our readiness, but have our "house" ready and waiting for the Lord's return! ❤️ Brian