

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

Being “Doers of the Word”

Brian R. Kemp

A story was told about a man who went to heaven. As he entered, he saw thousands of ears stacked neatly on the sides. He asked his angelic guide about the ears. The angel informed him that they were the ears of those who, while they were living, were very “faithful” in their attendance of church services. Whenever the meeting place doors were opened, they were present. However, that was the full extent of their “Christianity.” When they left hearing the word, they did not do what it said. Thus, these people’s ears were the only part of them that made it to heaven. Obviously, this story is not real, but it does illustrate a very important point: we must be doers of the word and not hearers only! James 1:19-25 gives three principles that will help us in being doers of God’s word.

Requires Preparation

Being doers of the Word requires preparation. James said, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath ... Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (Jas. 1:19-21).

First, we must be of the mindset to hear. This sounds simple, but some think they know it all. We all know people that no matter what subject, they know more about it (or think they do). In discussions with such people, it is hard to get in a word. However, James says, “be swift to hear” and “slow to speak.” This is much more pressing when it concerns God’s word. Let us be of the mind to listen to what God is saying through His written word!

Second, in preparation, James said that we must put away some things; namely, “filthiness,” which refers to impurity (cf. Zech. 3:3-4), and “overflow of wickedness [superfluity of naughtiness, KJV],” which refers to a state where the heart is filled with evil and exhibits itself in ungodliness. We cannot be doers of God’s word if we are not willing to put away our own sin.

Finally, by way of preparation, James said that we must “receive with meekness the implanted word.” “Implanted [engrafted, KJV]” means rooted, or fixed, and thus emphasizes a thorough reception of God’s word. The word superficially deposited in the heart will never produce the yield of fruit that God desires (cf. Mt. 13:5-6, 20-21). The word is only able to save those who receive it. Are we prepared to be doers of the word?

(continued on page 2)

Involves More Than Hearing

Being doers of the word involves realizing that hearing alone it is not sufficient. James said, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was” (Jas. 1:22-24). We are deceiving ourselves if we think that God only requires us to hear His word. There are those in congregations all over who attend the services of the church regularly—who hear the truth preached constantly—but who never translate what they hear into life. We must do the word (Rom. 2:13; Lk. 11:28)! Remember the main difference between the wise and foolish builders (Mt. 7:24-27)? Jesus said that both builders “hear these sayings of mine,” but the wise builder also did what he heard, whereas the foolish builder did not! James compares the one who only hears to a man who observes himself in a mirror. He has the information he needs to improve himself, but he really is not concerned enough about it, and soon forgets what he saw. We must realize that physical appearance is nothing compared to eternity. We cannot afford to take lightly the word of God. Spiritually, it has all the information we need, but we must do more than just take a glance and then forget! We must adjust our lives according to the faults it exposes in us.

Results In Blessing

Being doers of the word brings blessing. “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (Jas. 1:25). Note the equation: look + continue + not forgetting + doing = blessing! “Looks” is from a Greek word that means to stoop to look, gaze at intently (cf. Jn. 20:5, 11), and here conveys one who is greatly interested in the word. “Continues” means to remain in, to stay close to, and reveals one who, because he has a proper attitude, will stick close to it. “Not forgetful,” in contrast to the man who walked away from the mirror without changing a thing, refers to one who takes to heart the truths that he hears from God’s word (cf. Ps. 119:11). The “doer” is obviously the one who puts into action the word of God, but note that James says a “doer of the work.” Being faithful to God involves work (Jas. 2:14-26 cf. Jn. 6:26). The object of all of these verbs is “the perfect law of liberty.” Those who say Christians are not under law simply have not read their Bibles (cf. 1 Cor. 9:21). The law about which James spoke is “of liberty” because it sets us free from sin (Jn. 8:31-32; Rom. 8:1-2).

Conclusion

Are we doers of the word or just hearers? May the Lord help us to be workers for Him. With the guidance of our elders, we look forward to a growing congregation. There is much work to be done. We want you to grow with us, but it must start with each of us being doers of the word. Are we growing? Are we doing the word? ♥ Brian

Doing God’s Will Is Basis of Final Judgment

Have you ever known someone who dropped names of prominent people in order to impress you that he was someone important only later to find out he barely knew the people he mentioned? It seems today that many people like to throw around the Lord’s name as if they were in good standing with Him. Sadder still, some on the day of judgment will be rudely awakened to learn that proclaiming, “Lord, Lord” will not suffice to enter the heavenly kingdom!

Confessing “Lord, Lord” Is Not the Standard

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). “Not everyone” implies that some will have been deceived into thinking that profession can replace practice (cf. Lk. 6:46). Although “Lord” can be a polite form of address (cf. Mt. 13:27; 21:30; 25:20), here it was a deliberate recognition of Jesus’ divine authority. The confessors seemed to be sincere in their pleading to the Lord. They seemed to think “Lord, Lord” was some kind of magical formula. “Kingdom of heaven” here does not refer to the church on earth, but to the final and ultimate manifestation of God’s kingdom in eternity (cf. Mt. 25:34; 1 Cor. 15:50). In the end, doing God’s will is what matters, not “saying” it (cf. Heb. 5:9)! “Doing” is the major theme in this part of the Sermon on the Mount (cf. Mt. 7:15-20, 24-27). Mere “religion” is not to be done, but God’s will is to be done (cf. Mt. 6:1-18; Isa. 1:11-15). Jesus here used “My Father” for the first time. By this designation, Jesus was claiming divinity for Himself (cf. Mt. 16:16; Jn. 5:18; 19:7). Jesus enjoyed a relationship to the Father that was unique to Him alone (cf. “only begotten,” Jn. 3:16). Through Jesus we can enjoy a relationship to the Father that is unique to Christians alone (cf. Rom. 8:14-17), but it requires doing His will! Doing His will now gives *(continued on page 4)*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Sharon Mathis-Washington and Margaret Norman are have been admitted into L.R.M.C. Sharon is in room #W 464B Margaret is in room #358B and will have a pacemaker procedure done on Thursday. Also remember Faith West, Margaret Norman, Jim Turner, Bill Long, Ginny Hamby, and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Lynn Stevens, Jack Pinckert, Chrissi Fuesner, Bob McAnally, Doris Smith, Joyce Stearsman, JoAnn Chancey, (Ginny Hamby's mother), Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding, Tim Wade (friend of the Kirklands).

Upcoming Events

Sunday July 8th: Elders/Deacons Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Monday July 9th: Work day to remove contents of preacher's old house. Meet at the church building at 8:30 a.m. An extra dumpster has been rented. This is all part of the process we must do before the house can be demolished. All helping hands would be appreciated!

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 by July 1st.

Saturday July 21st: Men's breakfast at 6th St. church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday July 28th: One day Vacation Bible School here at S.F.A. Please invite family and friends.

Response

Kyle Williams responded to the invitation Sunday 6-17-18. Please keep him in your prayers and let us all encourage him.

Wiffle Ball League

The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board. See C.J. Grimes for more info. Games will be Sunday nights after services in the field here at the building and will start in July.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Darlene Thompson on another new great-grandson born on Saturday June 23rd. His name is Damon Kole Thompson.

Visitors

Rick & Stephanie Kenyon, Klark and Karissa, Joel & Kerri Halsey and Danner, Johnny Davidson, George & Marion Beals, Trevor & Heather Touchton, Veda Roach, Karen Napier, Victor Montes, Emily Hernandez, Linda Boon, Kayden, Callie, Collin and Lily

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

David Anderson **Table** Ken Walker
John McShane..... **Assist**Jimmy Sweeney

Sunday, July 1, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... David Williams
Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Wesley Brunson
Sound Booth..... C.J. Grimes

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Charles Paulin
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Williams
Sound Booth..... C.J. Grimes
Greeters Fifes
Att. Cards..... Colby/Ian
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson

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

Sunday, July 8, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Ken Walker
Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Josh Estridge
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Greeters..... Shearers
Att. Cards..... Paul/Sawyer
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Song Leader..... Ken Walker
Opening Prayer..... David Williams
Closing Prayer..... Paul Romine

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 03.....\$7,242.55
June 10.....\$5,983.08
June 17\$5,436.39
June 24\$4,371.18
Contribution Average.....\$ 5,794.82
2018 Weekly Budget..... \$4,887.98



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!

Doing God's Will Is Basis of Final Judgment (continued from page 2)

us that special relationship with Him so that in the final judgment, the faithful will be saved (cf. Col. 3:1-4; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 9:27-28).

Doing "Good" Is Not the Standard

Jesus continued, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'" (Mt. 7:22). On the last day, many will appeal to the "good" they had done. "Many" shows the popular extent to which people are deceived into thinking that their "good" works will relieve them from obeying God (cf. Mt. 7:13, 15). Their "good" deeds are seemingly commendable — prophesying, casting out demons, and doing "many wonders"! "In Your name" was a claim that they were doing these things with the Lord's authority (cf. Col. 3:17). In the Greek text, this phrase appears first in each clause for emphasis. However, to claim that one works by the authority of God is not the same as truly working by the authority of God (cf. Lk. 6:46). The only way to work with His authority is to be in harmony with His will, both in relation to self and in relation to others (cf. Mt. 28:18; Jn. 14:23; 1 Tim. 4:16). Nothing can make an adequate substitute for true (continued below)

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-25



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 . . .



**Old
House
Update**

Some church members met with the senior planner for the Historic Preservation for the City of Lakeland. Before we can remove the old preacher's house, we must completely clean it out and then install a sign offering it free to anyone who pays to move it. We solicit your prayers as we seek to free up space to accommodate the future growth of the congregation!

(continued from above) obedience to God (cf. 1 Sam. 15:22)! Doing "good" now, but not truly obeying God, will not suffice the day of judgment.

Failure to Do God's Will Is Lawlessness

Jesus concluded, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Mt. 7:23). No matter how "good" one is, God will not approve without obedience. "I never knew you!" does not mean Jesus lacked knowledge, but that Jesus never approved them (cf. Jn. 10:14; 1 Cor. 8:3; Gal. 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:19). This is a strong statement indicating that these have no hope of salvation (cf. Mt. 25:41). Since they were never known by Christ, they never did His will. Their failure to obey God meant total rejection from Him! Eternal departure from the presence of God is the worst of all punishments (cf. Mt. 25:46; Lk. 13:27-28; 2 Thes. 1:9). Those who "practice lawlessness" cannot be in God's presence (cf. Mt. 25:41-46; Rev. 21:8).

Conclusion

Are obeying God? Are we learning His will and applying it to our lives? Remember, no amount of "religion" can save us. Only obedience to His will has that result! Let's serve God so on that last day we will not be eternally shocked. ❤️ Brian