

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

Overcoming Disappointment

Brian R. Kenyon

Life is filled with disappointment. Job said, “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). Disappointment comes in all shapes and sizes. Some we bring on ourselves; some is brought upon us by others; and some just results from events over which we have no control. How can we handle disappointments in life? John 14-16 contains the answer. In this section of Scripture Jesus prepared the apostles for His departure. He had been with them for about three years. He had been their constant companion, but was now going to depart soon. The apostles were about to lose their best friend, the one on whom they had relied for so long. Imagine their disappointment! Although our disappointments may not involve the earthly loss of our best friends, they can come close to what the apostles were experiencing. The way Jesus prepared them for this potentially overwhelming disappointment can also give us strength to overcome our disappointments.

Have Faith in God

Faith in God will help us through disappointing times. Jesus began this section, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me” (Jn. 14:1). Imagine if we were in the place of the apostles. Do we remember times in our lives when we lost someone on whom we depended so much, whether a best friend, family member, or even a spouse? Perhaps as children we can remember when our best friend moved away. Or maybe church members whom we had grown to love and appreciate had to leave the congregation for whatever reason. This is how disappointed the apostles were about to feel. Their best friend was about to leave. Their security would soon be taken away. What could they do? What can we do? Jesus said, “Believe in God”! Biblical belief is not a “blind leap in the dark.” It is based on knowledge (Rom. 10:17). Yes, that is right—faith is knowing! The Bible defines it: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). The evidence for God’s existence is all around us (cf. Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-20). We can also know that the Bible is His inspired word. We must, therefore, do what it teaches and trust its promises, because “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6). When tempted to be overcome with disappointment, we must look beyond the moment and trust that God will help us.

(continued on page 2)

Know This World Is Not Our Home

Jesus promised the apostles, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (Jn. 14:2-3). There is more to life for the faithful Christian than this world. One reason Jesus went back to the Father was to make ready our eternal abode with God. “Mansions [dwelling places, NAS; rooms, ESV]” is from a Greek word (*mone*) that means “dwelling place, abode, room” (same word in Jn. 14:23). Imagine living in the same abode as the Father and the Son! That is exactly what awaits all the faithful children of God. There is no disappointment in this life that can take that away! Paul said that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). Most, if not all, of our disappointment arises because of what we perceive as losing in this world. The apostles, for example, had difficulty seeing beyond their present time when faced with the reality of Jesus’ departure (cf. Jn. 14:5, 8, 22). Sometimes we also have a hard time looking beyond the here and now. It will help us to overcome disappointment when we realize that we do not belong to this world, and the things we lose in this world will be more than compensated in eternity (cf. Mk. 10:28-30)!

Continue Working in the Lord

Jesus’ preparation of the apostles for His departure involved a reminder of their work in relation to Him.

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser ... ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit ... ⁶If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (Jn. 15:1-6)

In the face of their coming disappointment, the apostles needed to remember they had work to do! If it was possible for an apostle, if he did not continue bearing the characteristics of “the true vine,” to be cut off and cast into the fire, then it is certainly possible for that to happen to us. No matter what may be our disappointments in this life, we must always remember the work the Lord has for us (Eph. 2:10; Tit. 2:7, 14; 3:8). We must abide and work in Him, remembering that “your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Be at Peace

Jesus closed the section of Scripture in which He prepared the apostles for His departure by offering them His peace: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33). Disappointments are a part of this life. However, we do not have to allow them to keep us in a constant state of anxiety (Mt. 6:25-33). We must trust that God, as He has promised, will work “all things ... together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

Conclusion

We serve an awesome God! Whether we are disappointed in ourselves, in others, or in circumstances beyond our control, there is hope! Whatever brings disappointment to our lives, God is able to make good come out of it. We have assurance: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (Jn. 14:27). ♡ Brian

Where No One Stands Alone

*Once I stood in the night with my head
bowed low.*

In the darkness as black as could be;

And my heart felt alone and I cried,

*“O Lord, Don't hide Your face from
me.*

Hold my hand all the way,

Every hour, every day.

From here to the great unknown.

Take my hand; Let me stand

Where no one stands alone.”

Mosie Lister

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bob Cooper will have surgery on July 19th. Wayne Shearer is having some medical testing done. Also remember Faith West, Wanda Bruno, Sharon Washington, 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, Chrissi Fuesner, Joyce Stearsman, Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding and Tim Wade (friend of the Kirklands).

Upcoming Events

Saturday July 21st: Men's breakfast has been changed from 6th St. to Orange St. church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday July 21st: Door knocking for the up-coming V.B.S. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the building. Come and help us promote our V.B.S.

Thursday July 26th: Senior Saints outing to the Polk County History Center. Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m. All teens are invited and lunch will be provided for the teens! A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

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

Sunday July 29th: Monthly Fellowship Meal following our morning service and the afternoon service right after our meal. Jimmy Sweeney's team is in charge of set-up and clean-up.

Sunday August 5th: Youth and parents meeting after morning service.
Pew Packers every Sunday evening at 5:45 p.m.

Placed Membership

Dustin Walling requested to place membership with us.

Request Prayer

Rick and Stephanie Kenyon request prayer of the congregation, while they are going through a difficult time.

Thank You

During my recent health problem, I would like to thank you for your prayers, visits, calls and cards, In Christian love, Margaret Norman

Visitors

Johnny Davidson, George & Marion Beals, Tiffany Hash, Sam and Megan, Junior Erickson, Jason & Carol Rymes and family, Jaylee Blalock, Leigh Anne Garland and children and Emily Hernandez.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

Aug 5.....help needed
 Aug 12.....Pratts
 Aug 19.....Pratts
 Aug 26McShanes
 Sept 2.....help needed
 Sept 9.....Pratts
 Sept 16.....help needed
 Sept 23.....McShanes
 Sept 30.....Shearers

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

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

Sunday, July 22, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... David Williams
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcut
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Bobby Simpson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Greeters..... Dixs
Att. Cards..... Paul/Ian
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Song Leader..... Matt Willcut
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, July 29, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Bingle
Prayer Tyler Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sound Booth..... Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Anderson
Sound Booth..... Paul Sweeney
Greeters Edmonsons
Att. Cards Willcut boysl
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wednesday, Aug 1, 2018

Song Leader..... Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 24.....\$4,371.18
 July 1.....\$5,673.16
 July 8\$6,198.52
 July 15\$6,255.19
Contribution Average.....\$ 5,821.34
2018 Weekly Budget..... \$4,887.98

Spiritual Maturity

One reason God gave “some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers” was for the “equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-13). We know that miraculous gifts ended with the completion of the New Testament by the end of the first century (1 Cor. 13:8-13). Thus, the term “perfect man [mature manhood, ESV]” refers to spiritual maturity. While there is a sense in which fictional Peter Pan’s philosophy of never growing up is legitimate (cf. 1 Cor. 14:20), so far as spiritual maturity is concerned, it is displeasing to God when those who should be mature are not. Remember the Hebrews writer’s words, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe!” (Heb. 5:12-13). This is one reason why the Corinthian church was in danger. Paul said, “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal” (1 Cor. 3:1-3). As in individual Christians so also in local churches, when immaturity manifests itself, *(continued below)*



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

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



Congratulations,
Ty and Heidi who were
married July 14, 2018! We praise
God for His pattern for the home!
May God continue blessing them!

VBS @ SFA

July 28, 8:30 am-1:00 pm

Come, dig in to the fun!

Vacation Bible School



**Think souls! Let's Invite our friends
and neighbors to church assemblies
and/or to one-on-one Bible studies!**

damage is done to the cause of Christ. However, when spiritual maturity is exercised by Christians and/or local churches, tremendous testimony (i.e., “actions speak louder than words”) is given to true Christianity, and growth can occur (cf. Acts 4:32-33). The South Florida Avenue church of Christ is to be commended for their exercise in spiritual maturity, especially over the past several months. With welcoming new converts and Christians placing their membership with us, to adjusting to a new Bible class curriculum, to patiently dealing with the old house, to handling those who repent, the congregation here has shown great spiritual maturity! Starting from the eldership and trickling down through the membership, the maturity in Christ is amazing! May the Lord continue strengthening us through the knowledge of His word and putting into practice what we know to be right! ❤️ *Brian*