

# 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. 73 No. 32 9-3-19

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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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## YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



IN  
SEARCH  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

## First Corinthians 13 Examining Alternative Views Of “That Which Is Perfect”

Brian R. Kenyon

Paul wrote, “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup>But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away” (1 Cor. 13:8-10). In the August 20, 2019 bulletin, it was shown “that which is perfect” must refer to the completed, written revelation of God (cf. Jas. 1:25). This is so because of the following reasons. First, that which is “in part” clearly refers to the miraculous gifts, represented by “prophecies ... tongues ... knowledge.” Second, since “that which is in part” is compared with “that which is perfect,” then whatever “that which is in part” refers to must be the same as “that which is perfect,” only to a lesser, partial degree. Otherwise, the comparison would be senseless (like “comparing apples with oranges”). Third, the illustrations Paul used to emphasize growing from immaturity to maturity involve intellectual processes (1 Cor. 13:11) and being able to see something vaguely as opposed to seeing it clearly (1 Cor. 13:12). Fourth, Paul designated the seeing vaguely time-period as “now” (in Paul’s day of the miraculous), but “then” (a time in Paul’s future) clear vision and knowledge would be available. Twice in First Corinthians 13:12 is the “now ... but then” construction used.

Thus, when “that which is perfect” (the completed, written revelation of God) came (and it did at the end of the first century), “that which is in part” (the miraculous gifts) was done away. Not only does Scripture affirm this, but objective observation also shows this to be true. To speak in tongues, as per the miraculous gift, one would speak a real foreign language that he never before studied. This was what “tongues” in the New Testament were! The first Day of Pentecost following the Lord’s resurrection is an example of tongue-speaking that nobody today can replicate (Acts 2:6-11). All, however, do not agree “that which is perfect” refers to the completed, written revelation of God. An examination of the two most popular alternatives to this view is now given (adapted from Winkler 226-234).

## Does “That Which Is Perfect” Refer to Jesus and/or Heaven?

Probably the most popular alternate view says “that which is perfect” refers to Jesus at His Second Coming and/or the perfect state of affairs ushered in thereby

(i.e., heaven). Practically all denominational groups, especially those that still think they have miraculous gifts, adhere to this position. There are three reasons why this position cannot be correct. First, the term translated “perfect” (*teleion*) is neuter gender. While not impossible (1 Jn. 1:1), if the “perfect” were referring to Christ, we would expect the masculine gender (“he [which is perfect]”), not a neuter pronoun “that” in “that which is perfect.” Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit to use the neuter gender.

Second, understanding the “perfect” to refer to Jesus or a state of affairs ushered in by Him would be to assign a meaning of “perfect” (*teleion*) that is not found in the context. Remember, “that which is perfect” stands in contrast (antithesis) with “that which is in part.” Since “that which is in part” is quantitative in character, referring to amount, then “that which is perfect” must also be quantitative for the contrast (antithesis) to be compatible. To understand “that which is perfect” as a state of affairs is to assign a qualitative meaning, referring to perfect quality, to a term that is clearly in context quantitative (referring to the amount of information).

Third, the word “perfect” (*teleion*) is nowhere used by Paul or any other New Testament writer to refer to the Second Coming or a state of affairs resulting from it. The Greek word translated “perfect” is found eighteen other times (Mt. 5:48; 19:21; Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:6; 13:10; 14:20; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 3:15; Col. 1:28; 4:12; Heb. 5:14; 9:11; Jas. 1:4 [twice], 17, 25; 3:2; 1 Jn. 4:18), and nowhere does it ever refer to a perfection of quality!

## Does “That Which Is Perfect” Refer to the Mature Church?

Some understand “that which is perfect” to refer to the maturity of the body of Christ. One writer says “that which is perfect” refers to maturity in terms of the unification of Jews and Gentiles in one church (McRay 168-183). Another defines it as “the ultimate goal, aim, and end that Paul seeks to accomplish in bringing God’s people to the fullness of spiritual growth and maturity” (Spain 14). This position also cannot be correct for the following three reasons. First, it makes the mistake of understanding “perfect” as qualitative (referring to perfect quality), rather than quantitative (referring to amount). As stated before, the miraculous gifts were perfect quality, even though they were only a partial quantity (amount) of God’s revelation!

Second, the criteria for gauging the maturity of the church are vague. Concerning the “unification of Jews and Gentiles in one church” view, Corinth already had Jews and Gentiles in her membership (cf. 1 Cor. 5:7); thus why tell them about it? Concerning the “fullness of spiritual growth and maturity” view, how exactly would the church know that she has grown enough spiritually: by numerical growth, geographical spread, or what?

Third, if the “perfect” were the maturity of the church, would it not have been possible for a mature church to become immature. This is exactly what happened to several churches in the New Testament (Gal. 1:6-7; Rev. 2-3). If a mature church slipped back to immaturity, this view would require re-opening the door for miraculous gifts to bring that church back to maturity. Indeed the implications of this view do not harmonize with the context of First Corinthians 13:8-13 or with the total teaching of the Bible.

## Conclusion

Those who think miraculous gifts still exist are deceived. Scripture affirms that the age of miracles has ceased (1 Cor. 13:8-13). The Spirit inspired word that God has given us is much more valuable than miraculous spiritual gifts. These gifts could only give partial glimpses of God’s will. However, the Bible, God’s completed revelation, gives everything we need to know. The word of God has been confirmed (Heb. 2:3-4); it has been “once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3); it is able to make us “wise unto salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15); and obedience to it results in being “born again” (1 Pet. 1:23). Let us follow what God has revealed in His word, and “be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15).

## End Notes

McRay, John R. “To *Teleion* in I Corinthians 13:10.” *Restoration Quarterly* 14 (1971): 168-183.

Spain, Carl. “That Which Is Perfect.” *That Which Is Perfect*. Ed. Ralph Sweet. Austin, TX: Sweet Publishing, 1972.

Winkler, Wendell, ed. *What Do You Know About the Holy Spirit?* Montgomery, AL: Winkler Publications, 1980.

**Let us be thankful for “so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him” (Hebrews 2:3)!**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Ginny Hamby, Ray Naschick, Wadi Khoury, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, Cierra Edwards (upcoming appt with neuro-surgeon in October) and Margaret Coone (spine surgery 9-4-19), Denise Gulizia (blood clots)

**Shut In Members:** Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

**Others:** Bob McAnally, Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., James and Ellen Shearer, Brinlee Alford, Derek Bush (Debbie Bush's son) and Tanya Irizarry (Jagie's sister-in-law).

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, September 7th:** Youth Group devo & service project at 5:30 p.m. at the Kemp's home.

**Tuesday September 17th:** Senior Saints meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, September 21st:** Parents' meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 24th:** FSOP ladies' class, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday October 5th:** Ladies Day here at South Florida Ave.

**Saturday, October 5th:** Door-knocking after Ladies' Day

**October 10-12th:** Ladies Retreat to St. Augustine, FL.

**Saturday October 19th:** Youth Seminar here at South Florida Ave.

**Saturday October 19th:** Annual Singing and picnic at Mary Holland Park in Bartow.

## Place Membership

Curtis & Eve Morelock have requested to place membership with us. Let us please welcome and encourage them and their family.

## Thank You

We would like to thank the church for the wonderful baby shower & contribution to Baby Emery. We are so blessed to have such a supportive Christian family. Thank you all for the kind prayers and, Lord willing, we will be back with a little one next year.

Love, Andrew & Elly

## Podcast

We invite you to listen to our new podcast (recorded radio broadcast) that is hosted by members of our congregation and features topics that are spiritually relevant. It is posted on our website and on our YouTube channel. It is called:

*The Modern Day Christian Podcast*

## Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Tiffany Hash, Mike & Barbara Stump, Allen Grimes, Andrew & Elly Enamorado, Charles Brown.

### Communion to Shut-Ins

Sept. 8 .....	Youth Group
Sept. 15.....	R. Kenyon
Sept. 22 .....	Deal/Turner
Sept. 29 .....	Van Allen

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### September

Designated Elder During Services - Kenny French

Open/Close Building - Jimmy Sweeney

Jimmy Sweeney ..... Table ..... Tyler Anderson  
Neil Entwistle ..... Assist ..... Alex Parramore

Sunday, September 8, 2019  
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer.....	Tim Croson
Sound Booth.....	Casey Paulin
Announcements.....	Frank Hamby
Song Leader.....	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	Kyle Faneuf
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	David Deal
Greeters.....	Fife/McShane
Cards.....	Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.  
Song Leader.....David Williams  
Opening Prayer..... Fred Strickland  
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp  
Closing Prayer.....Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Song Leader.....	Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer.....	Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer.....	Bobby Sheumaker

### Sept. Clean-up David Williams team (R-Z)

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

Sunday, September 15, 2019  
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class .....	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer.....	Tim Croson
Sound Booth.....	Casey Paulin
Announcements.....	Frank Hamby
Song Leader.....	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	Kyle Faneuf
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	David Deal
Greeters.....	Fife/McShane
Cards.....	Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	David Williams
Opening Prayer.....	Fred Strickland
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Bobby Simpson

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Song Leader .....	Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer.....	Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer .....	Bobby Sheumaker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug. 11 .....	\$7,477.25
Aug. 18.....	\$5,833.18
Aug. 25 .....	\$6,993.07
Sept. 1 .....	\$7,296.37
Contribution Average.....	\$6,582.63

## Member Spotlight

# Brittani Kemp



Brittani was born in Altamonte Springs, Florida, and grew up in Daytona Beach. Her first job was at Taco Bell, where she met Hiram, who would later become her husband. She is currently a homemaker. She has been on mission trips to Panama, Peru, and Nicaragua. In her free time, she likes doing it yourself crafts and watching crime shows. She also enjoys decorating and shopping. Her most satisfying accomplishment is being baptized into Christ. The best advice she's been given is "Be true to yourself and others." She and Hiram have 2 children.

## Member Spotlight

# Hiram Kemp



Hiram was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and also lived in Alabama. As a child, he wanted to be a lawyer. His first job was sweeping hair in a barber shop. He is currently our preacher/minister. He has been on mission trips to Panama, Peru, Ghana, and Nicaragua. In his free time, he likes to read, run, play with the kids, and spend time with his wife. He is good at listening. His most satisfying accomplishment is becoming a Christian. The best advice he's been given is "First impressions are often last impressions." He and Brittani have 2 children.



## 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 . . .

**Ladies,  
Plan Now  
To Attend  
This And  
Invite  
Your  
Friends  
& Family!**

**SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## LADIES DAY

1807 S. Florida Avenue Lakeland, FL 33803

**OCTOBER 5, 2019**

### ABCs of Christianity

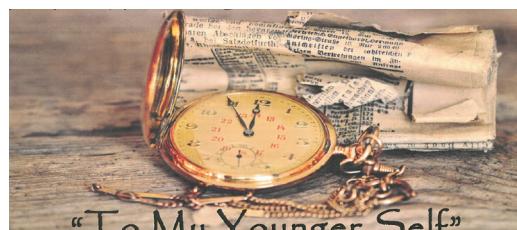
**A - A fight against the Adversary**  
Kelsey Grimes, Sebring church of Christ

**B - Being a Barnabas**  
Dee Parramore, South Florida Ave.

**C - a Centurion of scripture**  
Stephanie Kenyon, South Florida Ave.

Registration begins 8:30 with continental breakfast  
Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m.  
[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)

Youth Seminar, Oct. 19, 2019



**Modern Relevance  
from Ancient Evidence**  
Fall Gospel Meeting



**SAVE THE DATE**  
November 3-6, 2019

**Make  
Plans  
Also  
For  
These  
Edifying  
Events!**