

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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. 35 09-11-18

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

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

“Preacher-itus” Attitudes Toward Preachers that Endanger the Soul

Brian R. Kenyon

The church at Corinth was divided. Part of that division was over their attitude toward the preachers that influenced them. Paul wrote, “For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ’” (1 Cor. 1:11-12). It must be noted from the start that it is not always a preacher’s fault that people form cliques over their infatuation (or “man crush”) over him. Certainly, we would not blame Paul, Apollos, or Peter for the Corinthians’ dividing themselves over them. Carnality, or worldliness, was the reason why the Corinthians were so immature as to divide themselves over men (1 Cor. 3:1-4).

Sometimes people today will likewise follow a particular preacher, but not for the love of the truth he preaches. There is nothing wrong with people having their favorite preachers, as long as those preachers preach the truth, but when their favor of one faithful preacher over other faithful preachers puts their souls and/or the souls of others in danger of being lost, they have a serious case of “preacher-itus.” How do we know whether or not we have “preacher-itus”? Consider the following questions.

Do We “Skip” Services When the Local Preacher Is Out of Town?

It is not uncommon for some members of the church to miss services when they know the regular preacher is out of town. For some reason, these people think that the preacher being gone means a holiday from attending services. Much like a child who delights in a snowstorm or hurricane threat because he knows school will be cancelled and he can sleep late and have fun instead of going to school, some members of the church seem to think that the local preacher’s being away means they can sleep late and have fun instead of “going to church.” At least two things are wrong with that attitude. First, Christians should enjoy studying the Bible and worshipping God. If one does not enjoy assembling with fellow Christians and worshipping the Lord, can he or she really love God? John, the apostle of love, said, “By this we know that we love the children of God and keep (continued on page 2)

His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 Jn. 5:2-3). If it has become a burden for us to assemble with the saints on the Lord’s day, then we better seriously examine our love for God!

Second, the Lord expects us to be present when the church assembles. The Hebrews writer said, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:24-25). God knows that we need encouragement. The church’s assembling is where we are stirred up to the kind of “love and good works” God wants. Why would we want to abandon what God knows is best for us (cf. Lk. 7:30)? As long as the one preaching is sincerely preaching the truth, should our attendance change just because the regular preacher is out of town?

Do We Attend Services Only When Our Favorite Preacher Is Preaching?

On the other hand, there are those who attend only when their favorite preacher is preaching. There may be a number of reasons for this that do not reflect “preacher-itus,” or jeopardize our souls, but consider some reasons that do. First, if we attend services only when our favorite preacher preaches solely because he is eloquent, we jeopardize our souls. Eloquent entertainers are the kind of preachers worldly people seek. Paul wrote the Corinthians, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom ...my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom ... that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:1-5). There is nothing wrong with eloquent speakers (cf. Acts 18:24), but when that is our only attraction, we leave ourselves open to being led astray (Rom. 16:18).

Second, if our favorite preacher is anyone but the regular preacher, and we attend only when someone else preaches as a form of protest or boycott of the regular preacher, we jeopardize our souls. Such protest reflects malice in the heart. Malice may be defined as “hateful feelings.” Among the worldly characteristics Paul said Christians must “put off” is “malice” (Col. 3:8). There is no Scriptural reason to harbor ill-will. If our ill-will toward the preacher is because he has wronged us or because he is not “preaching the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15), then we must Scripturally resolve those issues (cf. Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:19-20), but refusing to attend services when he preaches is not the way to do it!

Third, if we attend services only when our favorite preacher is our good friend or family member, then we jeopardize our souls because it shows that we value the messenger more than the Gospel message, which is able to save our souls (Rom. 1:15-16). There is nothing wrong with supporting friends or family members who preach by being present to hear their sermons, but there must come a time when we embrace the message more than the messenger. When we do not attend when anyone else preaches, we show that our interest is not in the message, but in the messenger. We must “learn ... not to think [of men, KJV] beyond what is written” (1 Cor. 4:6).

Do We Love the Truth?

As long as a faithful Christian man is sincerely preaching the truth in language we can understand, should it really matter who he is as far as our attendance is concerned? Again, there is nothing wrong with liking certain personalities over others, or liking certain preaching styles over others, but when our personal likes, dislikes, or motives for attending are the result of unscriptural attitudes toward preachers, we jeopardize our souls and the souls of others. Let us love the message enough that we want to hear it no matter the faithful Christian messenger!

For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal? ⁵Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ⁸Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

First Corinthians 3:4-9

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Linda McShane was home not feeling well with Bursitis. Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Ron Cox, Wayne Shearer, Faith West, Jim Turner, Bill Long, Ginny Hamby, and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Harold Hooks, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Joyce Stearsman, Ruth Brunson, Ted Okolichany, Chip Bolding, Ray Parker, Barbara Paulin and Alexa Williams.

Upcoming Events

Thursday Sept 13th: Evening Ladies Bible class will resume at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 15th: Men's Breakfast: North Jackson in Bartow at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday Sept. 18th: Senior Saints Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18th: FSOP Ladies Class 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday Sept. 20th: Senior Saints Outing to the Lake Wales Museum and lunch, we will be leaving the building at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday Sept 29th: Farewell to Summer Cook-Out and Corn Roast. Games for all ages at 2:00 p.m. Dinner served at 5:00 p.m. Please bring side dishes and drinks.

Sunday Sept. 30th: Monthly Fellowship Meal. David Williams team has set-up and clean-up.

Thank You's

I wanted to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and phone calls during my procedures and surgery. Please continue to keep me in prayer as I attempt to resolve my medical issues. I love you all and may God continue to bless you. Ron Cox and family.

Dear church family, Thank you for your calls, cards and prayers during my illness. Your kindness was very much appreciated. Sincerely, Bob Cooper.

Placed Membership

Rick & Stephanie Kenyon have requested to place membership with us! Let us please welcome them into our family.

Sympathy

Elizabeth Tubb Dean's husband Twain Dean, passed away on Saturday September 8th. Please keep Elizabeth and her family in your prayers.

Question and Answer

Sunday Sept. 23rd will be the Question and Answer service. Please don't forget to place your questions in the box!

Visitors

Jerry Green, Scott & Kristal Markowitz and Lilly, Mike, Elizabeth and Justin Bosley, Karen Napier, Debbie Bush and Katherine Nester.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Charles Paulin **Table** C.J. Grimes
Tucker Sweeney **Assist** Bobby Sheumaker

Sunday, September 16, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Frank Hamby
Prayer..... Kyle Bingle
10:30 A.M.

Announcements Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcutt
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.
Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Sermon..... George Beals
Closing Prayer..... Jim Edmonson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Greeters Shearers (before) Frenchs (after)
Att. Cards..... Antonio/ Paul
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer..... Fred Strickland

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

Sunday, September 23, 2018
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Jim Turner
Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
10:30 A.M.

Announcements Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jim Edmonson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.
Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Williams
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Greeters Walker (before) Darlene & Brenda (after)
Att. Cards..... Paul/lan
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Song Leader..... Jim Turner
Opening Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer..... John McShane

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

August 19.....\$5,273.72
August 26.....\$4,995.17
Sept. 2.....\$7,194.09
Sept. 9.....\$5,823.01
Contribution Average.....\$5,799.11
2018 Weekly Budget.....\$4,887.98

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

Sept 16.....Parramore
Sept 23.....McShane
Sept 30.....Shearer
Oct 7.....Sweeney
Oct 14.....Potvin

God Is Omnipotent

In the first book of the Bible, God told Abram, "I am Almighty God" (Gen. 17:1). In the last book, "the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty ... Because You have taken Your great power and reigned'" (Rev. 11:17). In every book in between, God's omnipotence is well attested. It is known by: (1) creation (Gen. 1:1-31; Jn. 1:3; Acts 14:15; Heb. 11:3); (2) true accounts of miracles revealed in Scripture (Jn. 20:30-31); (3) His sustaining of the world (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3); (4) His answering of prayer (1 Jn. 5:14-15); His providence (Mt. 6:33; Rom. 8:28; Mt. 6:33); and (5) His salvation (Rom. 1:16-17; Heb. 7:25). God is able to do whatever He wills, so long as it is logically possible (cf. Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Ps. 115:3; 135:6; Mt. 19:26; Eph. 1:11). God cannot exercise His power in violation of His own will and/or His nature. Because of this, there are some things God cannot do. He cannot tolerate iniquity (Hab. 1:13), deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13), lie (Heb. 6:18), nor commit/solicit sin (Jas. 1:13). Furthermore, God cannot do absurd or self-contradictory things such as make a rock so big that He cannot move it. These things are logically impossible (like a four-sided triangle). God does not always exercise His full power (Mt. 26:53), but does so only according to His will. Because of His omnipotence, we can fully trust God's ability to fulfill His promises no matter the seeming impossibility (Rom. 4:21). ❤️ *Brian*



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 . . .



A JOEY TREAT Treat

We were blessed Sunday to have Joey Treat and his family with us as Joey gave a report on the work

they are doing in Micronesia. Slow and steady (and lasting), the work is progressing! Pictured above are a few of our youth giving the family expressions of thanks to let them know we appreciate their great work in the Lord!

Special Thanks to all those who work behind the scenes in building-up the church here. Our youth are edified, our services are being broadcast, our shut-ins are receiving communion, our sick are being visited, the community is taking notice, and, most importantly, Christ is being glorified!



PEW PACKERS THIS SUNDAY AT 5:45 PM

Let's make sure our children participate!

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)
Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)
Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)
Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)
Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2),
which includes assembling for worship
(Jn. 4:24) & encouragement (Heb. 10:25)