

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

The Church At Thyatira: "Wait for the Star"

Brian R. Kenyon

John, while on the isle of Patmos, wrote the Book of Revelation. In Chapters 2-3, there are recorded seven letters to the churches of Asia Minor. Although each letter was written to a specific congregation, each is also applicable to us (cf. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches," Rev. 2:29). The fourth of these letters was written to the church at Thyatira. The subtitle, "Wait for the Star," is adapted from Ray Summers (*Worthy Is the Lamb*).

Background of the City

Thyatira was situated between two valleys. A major Roman highway ran through the city, which resulted in a prosperous trade business. Although it was not as important as its sister cities, Thyatira was wealthy. The city was perhaps best known for its trade guilds (somewhat comparable to our labor unions). Thyatira had well organized groups of wool workers, linen workers and dyers, leather workers, slave dealers, and bronze-smiths. One of Thyatira's best known residents to Bible students was Lydia (Acts 16:14).

Relevance of the Writer

The letter was written by "the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass" (Rev. 2:18 cf. Rev. 1:14-15). "Son of God," which occurs only here in the Book of Revelation, emphasizes the complete majesty of His person. "Eyes like a flame" describes one whose vision penetrates, even into the secret places (cf. Heb. 4:13). Since He sees all, He knows all! "Feet like fine brass" convey strength and quickness. The Christ is quickly and accurately able to pursue all whom He wills. A message from such an one as this needs to be heard by all.

Christ's Evaluation

Christ begins His assessment of the church with His characteristic note of approval. "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first" (Rev. 2:19). Christ explains their good works in a series of praiseworthy qualities. This shows that He is (continued on page 2)

concerned with every local church and that nothing is hidden from His knowledge. “Love [charity, KJV],” the greatest attribute (1 Cor. 13:13), is what motivates service to God (Jn. 14:23-24). “Service” is love in action (1 Jn. 5:2-3). “Faith” is fidelity to Christ and trusting reliance upon Him (Heb. 11:6). “Patience” is steadfast endurance under pressure. It is not something that denotes passively passing time, but it is actively doing God’s will in spite of the obstacles and temptations to quit (cf. Rom. 5:3-5; Jas. 1:2-4). In addition to these good spiritual qualities, the Christians in Thyatira consistently progressed so that the “last” was “more than the first.” If more congregations today had these qualities, they, like Thyatira, would have much to be commended.

Although Thyatira had some positive qualities, the Son of God pointed out their sin, “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols” (Rev. 2:20). Some in Thyatira were tolerating false doctrine (cf. Rev. 2:14-15). “Jezebel” represents opposition to God. The historical Jezebel led Ahab to serve Baal (1 Kgs. 16:31), killed the prophets of God (1 Kgs. 18:4), was in fellowship with false prophets (1 Kgs. 18:19), and committed “harlotries [whoredoms, KJV]” and “witchcrafts” (2 Kgs. 9:22). This “Jezebel” in Thyatira, who claimed to be a “prophetess,” was misleading Christians. This may have involved the trade guilds in Thyatira. This “Jezebel” seemingly deceived the saints into thinking that it was okay to participate in pagan festivals, a necessary activity to be in good standing with the trade guilds. However, we cannot compromise the faith, even if compromise results in “bread on the table” (Rom. 6:1-2; 12:1-2). Any “trade guild” today that requires compromise must be abandoned (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14).

The outcome of “Jezebel” and her followers confirms the seriousness of deception and compromise. “Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works” (Rev. 2:22-23). The long suffering of God can come to an end, especially when people do not repent (cf. Rev. 2:21). Those who shared in “Jezebel’s bed” must also share in her “tribulation.” The goodness of God should lead us to repentance (Rom. 2:4), but when we turn from the truth to follow deception, it becomes difficult to leave the error. In such cases, condemnation is inevitable (cf. Heb. 6:4-6). As members of the church of Christ, we must never condone sin nor compromise the faith (cf. Eph. 5:11; 2 Jn. 9-11; Jude 3). When the two conflict, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)!

Christ’s Promised Blessing

The Son of God gave three promises to those who overcame. First, Christ would not allow further burden upon them. “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵But hold fast what you have till I come” (Rev. 2:24-25). Keeping the faith may be difficult, but God never demands more than we can handle (Acts 15:28-29; Phil. 4:13; 1 Jn. 5:3). Second, Christ promised vindication and triumph with Him. “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—²⁷He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels—as I also have received from My Father” (Rev. 2:26-27). Those who overcome have been raised with Christ to sit with Him (Eph. 2:6); thus, those who overcome reign with Him (Rom. 5:17; Rev. 5:9-10). Third, to the one who overcomes, Jesus, said, “I will give him the morning star” (Rev. 2:28). The “morning star” can be a sign of triumph or assurance of a new day, but it can also refer to Christ (cf. Rev. 22:16). The coming of Christ makes this world’s struggles pale into insignificance (Rom. 8:18). We are given the same promises if we overcome (Rev. 2:29). Do we have the patience to wait for the “Star”?

Conclusion

Although our present culture is not as forceful in its pressure upon Christians to compromise, the devil still works hard at deceiving them into thinking conforming to culture is beneficial. God’s people must stand strong, not conforming to the world (Rom. 12:2) nor compromising the faith “once delivered” (Jude 3) in order to be accepted! May we overcome with Christ and reign with Him! ♥ Brian



PEW PACKERS THIS SUNDAY EVENING AT 5:45

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bill Long has been admitted into the hospital due to infection.

Stacey Wilson is now home from the hospital after complications with sugar levels. Nancy Jacobs has been home sick. Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Ron Cox, Wayne Shearer, Faith West, Jim Turner, 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 Connie Jordan, (daughter of the Edmonsons).

Upcoming Events

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

Friday Sept. 21st: Outdoor Movie Night at the Grimes house at 8:00 p.m. Sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Sept 23rd-26th: Sebring Lectures at the Sebring Parkway church of Christ.

Saturday Sept 29th: Farewell to Summer Cook-Out and Corn Roast. Games 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.

Saturday Oct. 6th: Ladies Day here at S.F.A. at 8:30 a.m. for registration and breakfast. Program begins at 9:30 a.m. Speaker is Susan Stearsman.

Saturday Oct. 27th: Youth Seminar here at S.F.A. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and program starts at 9:00 a.m. R.S.V.P. by Oct. 20th.

Thank You

To my dearest Christian brethren, Thanks so very much for your continued thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. Our God is always awesome! In Christian love, Bernetta Green

Temporary Address

There is a temporary address for bettye bolding. She is staying with her son Chip for an unknown period of time. The address is 94-540 Ana Aina Place Waipahu, HI 96797. She would love to hear from you!

Congratulations

Daniel Stump was baptized into Christ on Tuesday Sept. 11th. Let us welcome him into our family.

Visitors

Jerry Green, Butch & Kathy Peel and Delana & Jake, Bruce & Jane Bitting, Jenifer Waldon, Mary Moore, Lukas Shearer, Johnny Davidson, David & Susan Stearsman, Debbie Bush and Katherine Nester.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

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

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/Ian
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

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

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

Sunday, September 30, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Matt Willcut
Prayer Wesley Brunson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Wayne Shearer
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer George Beals
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sound Booth Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Dennis McCarter
Sound Booth Casey Paulin
Greeters Nona and Jeanelle (before) T. Andersons (after)
Att. Cards Colby/Sawyer
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

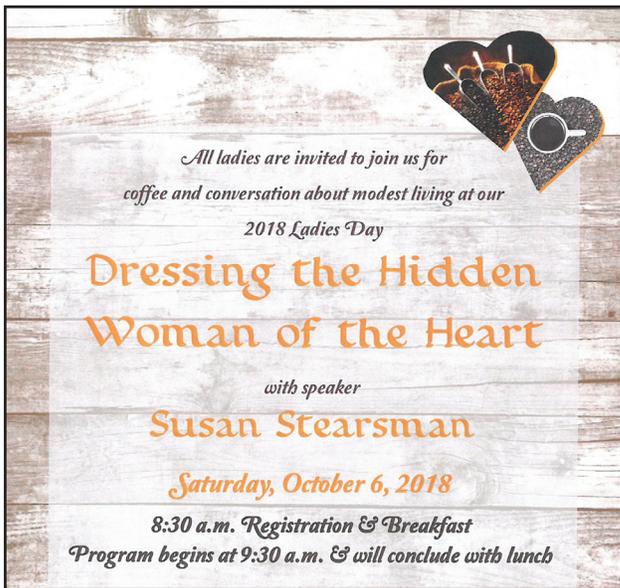
Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer Matt Willcut

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

August 26.....	\$4,995.17
Sept. 2.....	\$7,194.09
Sept. 9.....	\$5,823.01
Sept. 16.....	\$5,625.80
Contribution Average.....	\$5,794.43
2018 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,887.98

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

Sept 23.....	McShane
Sept 30.....	Shearer
Oct 7.....	Sweeney
Oct 14.....	Potvin
Oct 21.....	Parramore



The Beautiful Importance of Women

Contrary to popular opinion, the Bible has never been “anti” women. In fact, at complete odds with the cultures during which it was written, the Bible presents such a high view of women that it could be used as a proof of God’s inspiration of the Bible! There is no way the human agencies through whom God wrote His word could have written what they did about women other than their being “moved by the Holy Spirit” (1 Pet. 1:21)! The Bible teaches women are just as much made in the image and likeness of God as men (Gen. 1:26-27)! The Bible mentions women in Christ’s genealogy (Mt. 1:3, 5), something practically unheard of in genealogies of the time! The Bible also shows that a wife has just as much authority over her husband’s body as he does over hers in a Scriptural marriage (1 Cor. 7:3-4). Paul would have never gotten this idea from his culture! When the Hebrews writer gave the great list of God’s faithful throughout the ages, he *(continued below)*



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 . . .



We rejoice with heaven that Daniel Stump was baptized into Christ Tuesday morning, September 11, 2018. We praise God and thank Him for leaving us His plan of salvation that if anyone obeys it, he or she will be saved. Daniel is a friend of Ken and Ray, who were instrumental in bringing him to Christ. Let’s continue inviting others.



Pray for the SFA congregation as we continue to grow! May God grant our eldership wisdom and every member a mind to work in unity to God’s glory!

(continued from above) included some notable women, some by name, such as Sarah and Rahab (Heb. 11:11, 31), and others in a general way, such as Moses’ parents, which in the Exodus account was primarily his mother (Heb. 11:23), and “women [who] received their dead raised to life again” (Heb. 11:35). Even “Rahab the harlot” is given as an example of faith right alongside Abraham (Jas. 2:25). Yes, God highly values women and so should we! ❤️ *Brian*

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)