



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 26 June 25, 2024

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Steven Ford

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

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.....6:30 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Find us on

YouTube & Facebook

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD
Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill Russia
Don Iverson India
Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Do You Follow The Flesh?

Brian R. Kenyon

Freedom in Christ does not give license to sin (Galatians 5:1, 13). “Walking in the Spirit” is the only way to make proper use of the freedom we have in Christ, for “the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law [of Moses and its basis in the flesh]” (Galatians 5:16-18). Evidence as to which one controls us, the lusts of the flesh or the Holy Spirit, is clear. Paul stated, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like” (Galatians 5:19-21). These characteristics are described as “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19a). “Works” refer to deeds and actions (James 2:14, 17-18; 3:13; 1 John 3:8, 12; 3 John 10). Let us briefly examine each of these so we can make sure they do not characterize us.

Sins of Sexuality

Adultery (from *moicheia*, μοιχεία) is only listed in the KJV family of translations. This is another of those textual variants, where some older (closer to the apostles) manuscripts do not contain the word “adultery,” which is fornication involving married people (John 8:3). **Fornication** (immorality, NAS95; sexual immorality, ESV; from *porneia*, πορνεία) refers to prostitution, unchastity, fornication, “of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse” (Bauer, 693); sexual immorality (Matthew 5:32; 15:19; 19:9; John 8:41; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 7:1-2; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3). “Unlawful” in the definition is in reference to God’s law (cf. General 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6, 9), not civil law (Mark 6:17 cf. Matthew 14:4). Also, the term “intercourse” in the definition is not limited to copulation, but actually refers to bodily, “sexual interaction” (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:15-18). The question, “How close can a person get to copulation and it not be regarded as fornication?” is misguided. Scripture indicates some “touching” can involve fornication (1 Corinthians 7:1-2). We should not see how close to sin we can get, but rather how far away we can keep from it (1 Thessalonians 5:22)! **Uncleanness** (impurity, NAS; from *akatharsia*, ἀκαθαρσία) means impurity, immorality; filth (Romans 6:19; Ephesians 4:19; 5:3). It is used figuratively in an ethical sense of immorality, especially as it relates to sexual sins (2 Corinthians 12:21; Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:3). Sexual sin often accompanied by idolatry, which would have been rampant in the Galatian culture. **Lewdness** (lasciviousness, KJV; sensuality, NAS95; from *aselgeia*, ἀσέλγεια) is basically defined as sensuality, indecency, vice (Romans 13:13; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Ephesians 4:19; 1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:2, 7, 18; Jude

4). Thayer included in his definition, “indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (79-80). This word along with “uncleanness” seem to be deliberately vague, perhaps even euphemisms, to include “sexual perversions (such as the practice of homosexuality and lesbianism [cf. Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Jude 7])” (Cole, 213).

Sins of False Religion

Idolatry (from *eidololatria*, εἰδωλολατρία) is the worship of idols (1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 Peter 4:3). It is used here literally, but the word can also refer to anything that comes between us and God (Colossians 3:5). **Sorcery** (witchcraft, KJV; from *pharmakeia*, φαρμακεία, from which “pharmacy” comes) refers to sorcery, magic, witchcraft (Revelation 18:23). In the Septuagint (i.e., the Koine Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures that Jesus and His apostles used), the word is found in Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:3, 14; and Isaiah 47:9, 12. It refers to “a secret tampering with and at times a worship of the powers of evil” (Boice, 496).

Sins of Mistreating Mankind

Hatred (enmities, NAS; enmity, ESV; from *echthra*, ἔχθρα) refers to hostility, ill will, hatred (Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:14, 16; James 4:4). **Contentions** (variance, KJV; from *eris*, ἔρις) is strife, selfish rivalry, fighting. Plural forms refer to quarrels (Romans 1:29; 13:13; Philippians 1:15; 1 Timothy 6:4; Titus 3:9). **Jealousies** (emulations, KJV; from *zelos*, ζήλος) is basically zeal, but can also refer to jealousy; envy (1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 9:2; 12:20; Philemon 3:6; James 3:16). **Outbursts of Wrath** (outbursts of anger, NAS95; fits of anger, ESV; from *thumos*, θυμός) refers to anger, rage; intense feeling (Romans 2:8; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Hebrews 11:27). This and “jealousies” can be good depending on the context (cf. John 2:17; Revelation 14:10). However, when they originate from “selfish motives” and harmful pride, they are evil! **Selfish Ambitions** (strife, KJV; factions, ASV; disputes, NAS95; rivalry, ESV; from *eritheia*, ἐριθεία) refer to selfishness, selfish rivalry, selfish ambition (Romans 2:8; Philippians 1:17; 2:3; James 3:14, 16). **Dissensions** (seditions, KJV; divisions, ASV; from *dichostasia*, διχοστασία) refer to divisions (Romans 16:17). **Heresies** (divisions, ESV; parties, ASV; from *airesis*, αἵρεσις) carries the idea of religious division, faction; false party or teaching (Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5, 14; 26:5; 28:22; 1 Corinthians 11:19; 2 Peter 2:1). **Envy** (from *phthonos*, φθόνος) is jealousy, spite (Matthew 27:18; Philippians 1:15; 1 Timothy 6:4; Titus 3:3; James 4:5; 1 Peter 2:1). **Murders** (from *phonos*, φόνος) is only listed in the KJV family.

Sins of Partying

Drunkenness (from *methe*, μέθη), especially as it is coupled with “revelries,” refers to premeditated intoxication, as at parties and gatherings where such purposes were the goal (Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13). **Revelries** (carousing, NAS; orgies, ESV; from *komos*, κομος) refers to carousing, orgy, revelry (Romans 13:13; 1 Peter 4:3).

Conclusion

Not only is it clear whether we are living by the lusts of the flesh, the serious consequences of such living is also evident. Paul concluded this list by writing, “of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21). Those led by the lusts of the flesh will not be a part of God’s eternal blessings unless they repent! Exactly when Paul taught this to the Galatians is not clear, but it was probably on his first missionary journey (cf. Galatians 1:9; Acts 13-14). Inheriting the kingdom of God is part of the promise to Abraham (cf. Galatians 3:6-29; Matthew 25:34; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 1:11), but just as following the Law of Moses jeopardized this inheritance (Galatians 3:1-5), so does being controlled by the lusts of the flesh. Let us be led the Holy Spirit through His written revelation in the Bible.

Works Cited

- Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. (1979).
Boice, James Montgomery. “Galatians.” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Vol. 10. (1976).
Cole, R. Alan. *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians: An Introduction and Commentary*. (1989).
Thayer, Joseph Henry. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. (1889).

PRAYER LIST

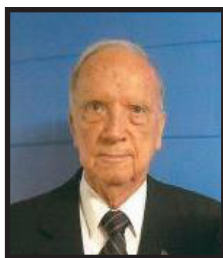
Current: Fran Gabaldon's surgery has been rescheduled for July 10. Annett Phillip fell and broke her hip and is at the Lakeland Nursing & Rehab Center, room 104.

Continual: Jim Turner (his cancer has returned and is now in his lymph nodes) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health);

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Sharon Roy, Nellie Anderson

Donald Harper (Ingrid Stewart's brother) passed away June 10th. The funeral will be in Toronto, CA.

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!



SFA will host a memorial service on Saturday, June 29, for Bill Long (who passed away June 18, 2024). Visitation will be at 10:30 am and services will begin at 11:00 am. We will have a luncheon following services. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for those who can help provide food (Galatians 6:10).

Toddler Craft Time

Friday June 28 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All toddlers are invited to participate

Senior Saints are encouraged to join in the fun as well!

See Nasheka Medley for details.

Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes

Time to sign up if you want to participate in this great program this year! We also need adults to sign up to mentor and help in various areas! We can't do this without your support! Sign up in the notebook by the doorway into the auditorium.

See Becky Sheumaker with any questions!



There will be an important Bible class teachers meeting on Sunday, July 28, at 5:00 pm. All teachers for the fall quarter are requested to be there. We would benefit greatly from your input.

Thank you all for the sweet cards and gifts. They mean so much to me. I miss all of you. Don't worry! I'm still in my walk of faith. I pray for the church always! I love you all!

Love, Payton Spears



Scheduled to Serve in June

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
------------------	--------------

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader / Prayer	Frank Hamby
Devotional / Invitation	Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson

Sunday, June 30, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Kevin Patterson
The Truth About Accusations (Eph. 4:25-32)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Youth Led
Landan and Peyton will preach the Word	

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Fifes
Song/Pray before class	David Williams
Announcements (both)	David Anderson
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Kyle Bingle
Lord's Table (both)	Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer	David Deal
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	Declan
Sound Booth (both)	Jason H

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Estridge family
Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Joseph Faulk
Closing Prayer	George Beals

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	David Williams
Devotional / Invitation	Andre Medley
Closing Prayer	Allen Grimes

How We Are Giving

June 9	\$6,259.52
June 16	\$19,655.00
June 23	\$5,170.00
Contribution Average	\$6,823.39
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

Women of the Word

Ingrid Stewart

Alone With God

Alone with my God and what do I do?
 I ask for strength when I am feeling sad and blue.
 I ask for forgiveness for sins I have committed,
 I thank Him for all the mercies He has granted.
 I talk to Him about my concerns and my fears,
 I also ask Him to bless my family and friends I love
 so dear.

Alone with my God and what do I do?
 I admire the clouds and sky so beautiful and blue.
 I enjoy the breeze, the birds, the flowers and trees,
 I thank Him for all that He has provided for me.
 Alone with my God, I think of my life on earth,
 What can I do each day that has some worth?
 I want to please my God by doing the best I can,
 Loving, serving and caring for others according to
 His plan.

Alone with my God for a moment or two,
 To acknowledge that without Him there is nothing
 I can do.

(Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; John 15:4-5)

Fellowship in Service

June 30

*Following the evening service
 Bring food to share and join
 us as we sign cards to
 encourage others and
 fellowship together!*



WWCC K-5 CAMP

Entering Kindergarten- Finishing 5th Grade

July 25 - 27th, 2024



Register by July 11th to be guaranteed a T-Shirt

Register @ <https://forms.gle/SH3jF6HvfdszQzqH8> or scan QR code

If you have any questions please contact
 Chad (863.412.0022) or Sabrina Tagtow (863.268.5811)

Thank You

To Our South Florida Ave. Church Family,

We wanted to thank you all for throwing us the most beautiful wedding shower. We are overwhelmed by all of the love each of you has shown us and continue to show us. We are blessed by your love and support as we start our lives together. We can't thank you enough!

Love, Tucker and Anna Clair

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



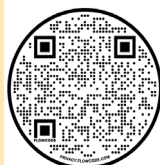
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
 peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
 faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"**

Galations 5:22-23



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.