

# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

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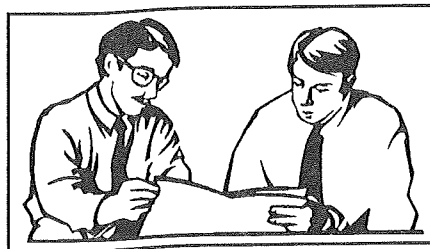
## My View Of The Florida School of Preaching

By  
Kenneth W. Franklin

I have long been a believer in training men to preach the gospel. In fact, I received my religious training at Freed-Hardeman College (now FHU) and Alabama Christian School of Religion (now Souther Christian University). My academic college training was received at Marietta College (Ohio), Arizona State University, and University of South Alabama.

For several years, I have served on the board of directors for the *Florida School of Preaching*. After preaching the gospel for 50 years, I semi-retired from regular pulpit work in 1989. In the fall of 1991, I began as a part-time instructor at *Florida School of Preaching* and I continue to teach two three-hour courses each semester. Not until I began this classroom teaching did I fully realize the great work this school is doing. This is one of

the most rewarding things I have done in my entire life.



Most of the students are not able to pay for a Christian college education. Nearly all of our students come from homes that are not affiliated with churches of Christ. Some have been denominational preachers, and some are from other countries. In most of their public prayers, the students thank God for FSOP and for those who support the school.

To a great extent, FSOP reminds me of Freed-Hardeman College in the days of N.B. Hardeman, W.C. Hall, and C.P. Roland. The teaching is sound,

solid, and true to the Book. In matters of faith, the Bible is the authority. No teacher tries to bind his own opinions in matters of judgment and expediency. A wholesome atmosphere of love and cooperation exists among the students, and a close, considerate relationship exists between students and faculty. I cannot keep from having a fatherly feeling toward all my students. Liberal ideas and fanatical instruction have no place at FSOP.

B.C. Carr, with the cooperation of the South Florida Avenue Congregation and other interested brethren, founded FSOP in 1969. Brother Carr ably directed this work until July 1, 1992, when he retired. He still uses his influence for the school and continues to serve on the board. Jackie Stearsman, the present director, is a very able leader and an excellent instructor. I tell him

he has two full-time jobs. In addition to directing, he teaches four three-hour classes each week. The other classes are taught by six, sound, experienced, and well-qualified instructors. These part-time teachers are sacrificing in order to save the school thousands of dollars each year.

We invite anyone to visit the school, while it is in session, and see first hand what is being done. Feel free to discuss any matter with any student or teacher. The more you learn about FSOP, the more you will thank God for its existence. The school will always need your help, as no tuition is charged. We need your prayers. We especially need your assistance in finding men who can be trained to be good preachers. The kingdom will never have too many faithful, gospel preachers. [In addition to brother Franklin's work at the school he serves as one of the elders of the Brandon Church of Christ. His years of experience and wisdom adds much to the preparation of men to preach. We appreciate brother Franklin and his willingness to assist us, editor.]



**EDITORIAL:**

From The Pulpit  
Osprey Ave. Church of Christ  
Sarasota, Florida

**WHAM, BAM,  
NO WAY, SIR.**

By  
Harold Rodriguez

One of today's most alarming issues is the subject of homosexual fornication. Any observer of today's world knows how prominent, and how open, this sin is. Persons who engage in, or promote such behavior no longer do it in secret. Those who so live are not only open, but are increasingly vocal in pressing for the removal of all social and religious stigma that is attached to them. Is homosexual fornication right or wrong? Let us see what God, our creator has to say about it.

In God's words there is no such thing as you do your own thing and I will do mine. An action is either right or it is wrong. When it is not done according to God's Word then it is sin. The Bible says, in First John 3:4, *Whoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.* In as much as the word "fornication" embraces all manner of illicit sexual behavior, then God's condemnation of fornication is also a condemnation of the sins of homosexual nature as well. By definition homosexuality is the sexual desire or behavior directed toward a person or persons of the same sex.

The sin of homosexuality goes back to the earliest of times. We find the sin being dealt with by God in the record of Sodom and Gomorrah. The practices and desires of these people are described in Genesis 19:4-5. It was a picture of moral degeneracy in both the young and the old (v. 4), and it was such filthiness that God had determined to destroy them,

"because their sin was very grievous" (Gen. 18:20). Later, the New Testament writer looked back at this sinfulness, and tells us that their behavior was ungodly and lascivious. Second Peter 2:6-7 states, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." Jude characterizes them as having given themselves over to fornication, and gone after strange flesh which was a violation of God's Word. Jude 7 says, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Under the Law of Moses, we need to note that the God of heaven, sympathetic to all sickness and affliction in man, still decreed death for all those who practice homosexuality. Leviticus 20:13 states, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall

*The Harvesters*

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

be upon them.”

Paul paints a very ugly, ungodly and degrading picture of homosexuality that can be seen clearly by all. “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” As Paul listed all the other sins in the text, he also tells us that all who do such things can look forward to the judgment of God in the end (Rom. 1: 32). Everything that feels good to you may not be good for you, pleasure may last a few moments but hell is for all eternity.

God's plan has always been for a man and a woman (not a man and a man or a woman and a woman) to come together in a lawful union called marriage, and wherein their physical relationship is pure and holy, the physical union outside of marriage is fornication. In the beginning God created a man, and a woman for the man, then he married them. “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam

said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:21–24). Paul says to us, “Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (I Cor. 7:2). These passages give us the facts, a man as a husband and a woman as a wife.

God's laws were established in the beginning for the good of both parties, the

**“God's plan has always been for a man and a woman (not a man and a man or a woman and a woman) to come together in a lawful union called marriage, and wherein their physical relationship is pure and holy, the physical union outside of marriage is fornication.”**

family of God, and for society as a whole. The Psalmist said in the long ago, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172). God's laws form the foundation of what is right and wrong. Solomon a man who had it all and did it all says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34). The Apostle Paul, who went from persecutor to persecutor gave his inspired words to the church at Corinth. He warned them that no practicing homosexual can enter into

heaven, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [male prostitutes], nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. . .” (I Cor. 6:9–11).

The only way to avoid perversion is a faithful conversion to the Lord. If you have a Bible question, bring it or mail it to—

**Questions:**

**Osprey Avenue Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 9202**

**Sarasota, Florida 43234.**

[Brother Harold Rodriguez is the faithful preacher of this congregation. Harold is a graduate of the *Florida School of Preaching*. This article is one from a series that these brethren run in their local paper, editor.]



**Sympathy Expressed  
To  
E.A. Furline Family**

Brother Furline was the father of sister Sandy Stilwell. Sandy is the wife of Gene Stilwell. Gene preaches for the Mdiway Church of Christ in Sarasota, Florida. Gene also serves on the board of the School and teaches a class.

Memorials may be sent to the *Florida School of Preaching* in memory of E.A. Furline.



### Student News

As students progress in their training congregations use them to substitute for their preachers who may be in meetings or on vacation.

The New Port Richey congregation has a tradition of having one of our students preach for them each third Sunday of the month. This enables the student to have experience in preaching and for the New Port Richey Congregation to have direct contact with the students they are helping to train.

Chris Steel is the preacher for this congregation and he too is a graduate of the *Florida School of Preaching*.

The North Lakeland Congregation where brother J.H. Blackman preaches is having second year students to conduct a gospel meeting for them May 2-5, 1993. Brother Blackman is one of the teachers of the *Florida School of Preaching* and serves on the board of directors. The North Lakeland Church of Christ meets at 5100 Highway 98 North, Lakeland, Florida.

The attached graphic presents the time and subject matter for the meeting.

**Gospel Meeting**  
**North Lakeland Church of Christ**  
**5100 Highway 98 North**  
**Lakeland, Florida**

**Sunday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m.**  
Dumas Lafleur . . . . . "Religious But Not Saved"

**Sunday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m.**  
Devon Bryan . . . . . "Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?"

**Monday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Jeffrey Booth . . . . . "If Ye Then Be Risen With Christ"

**Tuesday, May, 4 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Bernard Cooper . . . . . "Reconciled By the Blood of the Cross"

**Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Bobby Simmons . . . . . "The Debt I Owe"

**All speakers are second year students.**

### Guyana Work

Michael Dykes graduated from the school last year. Mike went to Guyana for a brief period and returned to the states to raise funds to begin full time work there. He joined another graduate from the school, Glen Willcut who was already working there but has since returned to the states and is the full time preacher for the Eagle Lake Church of Christ, Eagle Lake, Florida.

Don Matthews is a graduate from the school. Don has made a number of trips to Guyana and encourages others to participate in this work. Don along with B.C. Carr, Glen Willcut and individuals from Bartow and Eagle Lake, Florida left Monday, March 22, 1993 for a two week trip to assist Mike and the brethren there.

It is a joy to know of the work being done by the graduates of the school.



## FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE  
LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653

**DIRECTOR:** Jackie M. Stearsman  
Phone (813) 683-4043

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