

Vancleave Church of Christ

Weekly Bulletin

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry

April 18, 2021

The Gospel and Belief by Duane Patton

When the good news of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection was being published in the first century, those who heard the message were challenged to believe. To the Philippian "jailor" Paul the apostle announced, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (**Acts 16:31**). Many of the Corinthians heard and "believed" the Gospel Paul preached (**Acts 18:8**). Even from the time Jesus began His earthly ministry the Lord challenged the people to "believe the Gospel" (**Mark 1:15**). In John's narrative about Jesus we read this sad statement, "among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (**John 12:42, 43**). Obviously, belief in Jesus is closely related to the saving message so that, without it, eternal life is not possible (viz., **John 8:24; 17:20, 21; Hebrews 11:6**)! In fact, belief in Jesus is so important that Jesus conditioned His proffer of salvation on our first believing in Him as the Savior whom God appointed for all:

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (**John 20:30, 31**)

But this begs a question. If belief is essential to salvation, and furthermore, if belief is something we (as flawed humans) are directed by God to do, then isn't belief a human work? While some have tried to "square" this problem by teaching that belief is something God gives men so that they can be saved, Scriptures teach otherwise. Nothing God requires of men to be saved can be identified as a human work which, once performed, earns God's saving favor, or merits His grace. Yet, belief is a work God obligates men to exercise to obtain salvation (**John 6:27-29; 20:27; Hebrews 3:12**)! The relation between the Gospel and belief is that our belief is part of what the Bible calls "faith" (**Ephesians 2:10**). So, belief in Jesus is a necessary human response to God's will as revealed by the Gospel. Men do not earn God's favor by belief, but failure to believe will merit death (**Romans 6:23**).

Seeking first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness...

Schedule of Services:

Sunday

9:00 AM Bible Class

10:00 AM Worship

6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:

6:00 PM Prayer & Devo

Local Works of Faith:

Bible Class (all ages)

Annual Youth Events

Back-Pack Buddies

Food Pantry

Gulf Coast Bible Camp

Sunnybrook Children's Home

Foreign Missions:

Guyana, South America

India

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:

Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries

Local Wi-Fi Network Access:

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Announcements and Prayer Requests

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open into their cry. ~Psalms 34:15

The John Nabors Family: Dealing with the recent passing of John's mother.

Jerry Wages: Recouping from recently having pace-maker installed.

Ron Webb: Suffering from ocular migraine.

JoAnn Catchot: Undergoing therapy for heart and lung condition.

Dino Vecchio: To travel to MD Anderson soon due to cancer.

Brennen Perry: Recovering from recent stroke.

Anita Dees: having issues with her heart.

Henry Tanner: Condition continues to worsen

Cheryl Wade: On ventilator at St. Michaels; also on dialysis.

Kyle Kenney: Suffering from various issues and requires constant care.

Remember our grade-school, High School and College students who are soon finishing up this school year. College graduates include Ben and Heidi Patton – CONGRATULATIONS to all!

Others: _____

Previous prayer requests and announcements may not be reflected in the above list. Please refer to earlier published bulletins for these as well as other announcements and other ministry opportunities.

If you have any updates on past or current prayer requests or other announcements, please share them by sending an email to vco_Christ@att.net or simply text or leave a voice message at 601-436-0868.

WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Repeating a lie a thousand times will not turn it into a single truth. Remember, we are set apart from the world by our belief in and practice of the truth.

“Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” (Proverbs 23:23)



<u>Day</u>	<u>Passage</u>	<u>Thoughts for Meditation</u>
MONDAY	1 Samuel 25-27	Can you name some specific virtues David is learning?
TUESDAY	Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63	What are some examples of David reasoning with God?
WEDNESDAY	1 Samuel 28-31 (Ps. 18)	Saul speaks to the dead. Why do you think God hated this?
THURSDAY	Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130	How have David's circumstances changed from last week's Psalms?
FRIDAY	2 Samuel 1-4	Describe David's heart toward his enemy, King Saul (cf. 1 Samuel 13).
SATURDAY	Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21	Psalms of reflection. Think of some ways these verses could be used in our anxious lives.
SUNDAY	1 Chronicles 1-2	Genealogies may seem boring. But, what does the inclusion of Adam tell you about his authenticity as a historical figure?

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalms 119:105