

Vancleave Church of Christ

Weekly Bulletin

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry

April 25, 2021

The Gospel and Repentance by Duane Patton

Hearing and believing God's word concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is essential to our possession of eternal life. Those to whom God's word on this matter was first preached (as recorded in **Acts 2**) were deeply affected both intellectually and emotionally about their sudden realization of their need for God's forgiveness. The text says they were "pricked in the heart" (**verse 37**) and asked the apostles this all-important question: "What shall we do?" This is a question that all people still ought to ponder, but the answer – simple as it may have sounded – included a commandment from God not so easy to accept; the need to *repent* (v. 38). To repent is to change one's own mind such that it leads to a change of life matching God's will. Due to the personal decision to abandon sinful behaviors and to follow the righteousness of faith as illustrated by repentance, some have noted that the command to repent is the hardest of all commands.

Also, turning away from sin is something all humans must choose to do. God cannot choose it for us otherwise His merciful kindness would cause all people to do so. Peter emphasized this very thing by writing that "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (**2 Peter 3:9**, KJV). Who is he talking about? Only those already saved? If so, why would these be in danger of perishing? All are required to repent! Think carefully about this. If God holds Himself responsible for our need to turn away from sin then there would be no need at all for Him to have "commanded all men everywhere to repent" (see **Acts 17:30ff**).

The Gospel, the good news of our salvation, is good for those whose heart is so touched by the word of God that they *insist* on living lives bent toward doing the will of the Lord. That life is a characteristically repentant life! As James encouraged our brothers and sisters in Christ in the first century, so today we also must "be doers of the word and not hearers only" (**James 1:22; 2:14**; cf. **Lk 6:46; Matt. 7:24-27**). The grave and personal nature of repentance, though both difficult and necessary, is evident from our Lord's statement, "Unless you repent you will...perish" (**Luke 13:1-5**). I truly hope this has helped us to become more familiar with the relationship between the Gospel and repentance.

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

Micah Sexson: Micah passed into eternity last week after a long, difficult struggle. Your prayers and support for the Sexson family is appreciated. Brother Steve conducted funeral services.

Fraline Hice: Dear friend of Charlene and Dianne, has passed away. Prayers are appreciated at this time.

Henry Tanner: Pray for peace and comfort as he is slowly passing away.

Bobbie Hollingsworth: Long time friends of the Patton family, passed away last week. She was 85.

Dino Vecchio: In very serious condition with cancer. Needs our urgent prayers.

Carl Adams (Father of Cindy Jones, Amanda Nabors' co-worker): recently passed away. Prayers requested.

Derek Bakker: Has traveled out of state for work. Prayers are requested.

Cheryl Wade (David Looney's sister): Improvement with her lungs. Kidneys are still problematic.

Jack Hayes: Still very much in need of prayers. His case is serious.

Others: _____

NEXT WEEK IS FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: All are invited to attend and enjoy our pot-luck fellowship meal and a High School graduation celebration for Parker Lyons and Samson Wages.

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: While the world engages in what seems to be non-stop politics and threats of violence and war, God is still the God of peace who comforts us in all our trouble.

"For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too."
(2 Corinthians 1:5)

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

Week 17

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	Ps 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87	Pick a psalm and reflect on how it can apply to our nation today.
TUESDAY	1 Chronicles 3-5	These lists of names might validate credibility of the writer. Why might that be?
WEDNESDAY	Ps 73, 77-78	As on Monday, reflect on a psalm and its possible application to our nation.
THURSDAY	1 Chronicles 6	No land allotment is given to the Levites. What might this tell us about how God people treated who own little to nothing of their own?
FRIDAY	Ps 81, 88, 92-93	Now, choose a psalm at see if you can make application to your own life.
SATURDAY	1 Chronicles 7-10	What do you think these records, be in so exacting, were intended to accomplish?
SUNDAY	Ps 102-104	Three very different psalms. When could each be useful to you?

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