

# Vancleave Church of Christ

## Weekly Bulletin

*Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry*

*April 4, 2021*

### **The Gospel and Hearing** *by Duane Patton*

In his somewhat lengthy address to Christians in Rome and while writing under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, the apostle, Paul, repeatedly emphasized the basis of God's saving grace – that of faith in Jesus, the resurrected Son of God. Luke recorded in the New Testament book of *Acts* multiple occurrences of conversions to Christ. Whereas *Acts* provides substantial evidence for the “conditions” God has set regarding our salvation from sin, the book of *Romans* lays out the “groundwork” for our eternal peace. As the opening chapter of Paul's writing so indicates,

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of the Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (**Romans 1:16-17**, NKJV; cf., **3:21-26**).

After fully establishing the literary theme (that of faith in Christ as the basis by which anyone will be saved from sin) the apostle reveals the necessary human component of salvation when he wrote, “...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (**Romans 10:17**). So, while Jesus shed His blood in death, His blood providing the means or agent by which God grants eternal life, He requires of those who would be so saved that they first hear God's message relative to Jesus' saving work. Philip, the evangelist, first preached “the good news about the kingdom of God” to the people of Samaria which led them to belief in Jesus (**Acts 8:5, 12**). Now, to be sure, no one living today is to audibly hear the message preached directly by Jesus, His apostles, prophets and evangelists in order to be saved; but Paul's statement to those in Rome is nevertheless true today. How do we know? We know because of something else he wrote in another letter around the same time. Note carefully what Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica on this same matter of faith: “he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle...” (**2 Thessalonians 2:14-15**, KJV; cf., **1 Corinthians 15:11**). We should conclude, then, hearing God's word derives from learning the will of God whether spoken or written in accordance with the Scriptures and it is in this manner that all may obtain faith in the good news of Christ!

### 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:

SSID: 2Wire029

Key: 399572302

**E-mail:** [vco\\_christ@att.net](mailto:vco_christ@att.net)

*Church Mailing Address: 11101 Hwy 57 Vancleave, MS 39565*

*Phone: 228-826-4949*

## Announcements and Prayer Requests

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

- David Robinson:** Recovering from recent oral surgery.
- Glenn Torgerson:** Recently passed away.
- Henry Tanner:** Prayers requested for peace and comfort. Now at home with hospice.
- Earl and Linda Kenney, Jerry and Virginia Mobley, Wayne and Lanette Girod** continue to need our prayers as they struggle daily with difficulties.
- Missions: Jerris and Juanita Bullard, Irvin Skinner, Jerry and Mary Alice Cantrell** all are continuing their efforts from South America to India. Please remember these in your prayers.
- Information for Gulf Coast Bible Camp is on table in Foyer.**

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](mailto:vco_Christ@att.net) or simply text or leave a voice message at 601-436-0868.

**WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT:** Don't be too discouraged when your fellow human breaks a promise. There is only one who can be trusted to keep every promise made to you.

"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6, NKJV).

### Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

#### Week 14

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	Judges 9-11	Abimelek was enticed to evil by power. Do you think some today are similarly enticed?
TUESDAY	Judges 12-16	Sampson was seduced by surface beauty. Has this ever or might this ever happen to you?
WEDNESDAY	Judges 17-18	Micah's idols infected his community. How might our sins also affect those around us?
THURSDAY	Judges 19-21	Horrible violence. Why do you think we "shrug" off some violence today?
FRIDAY	Ruth 1-4	How well might you adjust to the people if you moved to another country?
SATURDAY	1 Samuel 1-3	Think of the biggest sacrifice to God you would be willing to make out of gratitude.
SUNDAY	1 Samuel 4-8	Sad. How might a Christian's fixation on secular politics be similar to Israel's popular demand for a king?

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