

Vancleave Church of Christ

Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry

June 27, 2021

A Distant God? by: Duane Patton

The known universe – with all its galaxies, stars and planets and so forth – according to some scientific research is so large that “No one knows if the universe is infinitely large, or even if ours is the only universe that exists” (nasa.gov). Astronomers have concluded that, by comparison, if our solar system (the sun and its planets, including Earth) were the size of a quarter, the nearest star to our sun (Proxima Centauri) would be the size of another quarter, two soccer fields away. And that’s just our solar system and one other (assuming the other would have planets of its own). Furthermore, NASA’s researchers have announced that “[b]eyond our own galaxy lies a vast expanse of galaxies. The deeper we see into space, the more galaxies we discover. There are billions of galaxies...” To think that God created this vast space and all of its contents is somewhat beyond our ability to comprehend! After all, since God caused the entire universe to come into existence, God must be in some way even greater than the universe. But where is God? Can we see God in a telescope? Can God be found on some distant planet beyond ours? Or, is God hidden away in a some church building or monastery? Perhaps God is simply a figment of human imagination, as some have alleged. As one writer has indicated,

To a man God is a psychological balm, a necessity to calm down a chaotic mind. Man in personal crisis, needs to talk to someone in his private precinct, when he is engaged in a internal talk with himself. Struggling to find solutions, guidance and help to overcome his predicament. His internal talk with someone is none other than his own rational self, mistakenly understood as an invisible divine persona (<https://the godconcept.weebly.com>)

The same writer quoted above goes on to say that “God and religion was created in specific historical scenarios, to offer guidelines that would discipline those, who the state could not subdue, control or regulate effectively...God is an idea with a form...an idea created by man” (ibid.) But what do the Scriptures say? Jeremiah the prophet speaks for God saying, “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away?” (**Jeremiah 23:23**) indicating that God is beyond the grasp of human experience and knowledge (i.e., God is not merely a construct of human thought, however complex). Yet, the apostle Paul makes this shocking admission when long ago he revealed the truth about God to some of the Athenian philosophers: “He is not far from each one of us” (**Acts 17:27**). Rather than being beyond the stars or only in our vain imaginations, God is near enough that each of us may know God, think and behave in accordance with His will, living peaceably while unconfined to space and time. Note: The Gospel of Christ removes any unnecessary distance between us and God!

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, Bible Study, Devotional

Local Works of Faith:

Sunnybrook Children’s Home
Gulf Coast Bible Camp
Local Food Pantry
Annual Youth Events
Back-Pack Buddies
The Gospel of Christ TV (Fox 25)
Every Sunday at 6:30 AM

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

Prayer Requests and Announcements

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

Mike Kenney: Continues to need our prayers for healing and strength to recover.

David Lambert (Sister Denis Clayton's uncle) is not well at this time.

Scott Morhan: Out of ICU and in room after several surgeries.

Cliff Carter (see sister Clayton) also passed away recently and his family appreciates our prayers.

Jane Gibson: Is to have heart valve replacement surgery.

Norris Flasch not doing any better and will need our constant prayers.

Jerold Bosarge (David Bosarge's dad) was hospitalized recently and needs our prayers.

Chip Quave: Recovering from COVID-19 but having some breathing problems, Please pray for Chip.

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 / corrections on any 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: God gives us everything we truly need.

"...for in Him we live and move and have our being"

(Acts 17:28 NKJV)



Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	1 KINGS 15:25-34; 1 KINGS 16:1-34; 2 CHRONICLES 17	In what main way was Jehoshaphat different from these other kings?
TUESDAY	1 KINGS 17-19	Elijah could have been killed. What can we learn from his faith?
WEDNESDAY	1 KINGS 20-21	A small army beat a large one. What can this tell you about God?
THURSDAY	1 KINGS 22 2 CHRONICLES 18	False prophets bring fake news. Does this happen today in matters of faith?
FRIDAY	2 CHRONICLES 19-23	How might we prevent infection from sins associated with power and riches?
SATURDAY	OBADIAH, Ps 82, 83	Are you waiting for God to bring justice to you? How might these passages help?
SUNDAY	2 KINGS 1-4	Why do you think God chose to spare Elijah from death? (cf. Gen 5:22-24)

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