

Vancleave Weekly Bulletin

Dedicated to Spiritual Encouragement and Christian Ministry

Hide and Seek! *by Duane Patton*

A favorite game for many generations of young people has been (and probably still is) the one sometimes referred to as “hide and seek.” The game is simple to play and everyone seems to have fun. While one or more kids hide, another will cover their own eyes at base (the starting and ending point) and then count to 10 or whatever previously agreed on number that will allow the rest to hide in the meantime. At the end of the count, the “seeker” who counted shouts “ready or not here I come!” loud enough for all others to hear. The fun part is to try to escape the hiding place before being found and then run as fast as possible to home base before being caught. If you get caught, then your “it,” the next one to count and seek while others hide.

It seems that some grown-ups enjoy playing hide and seek with God. God seeks true worshippers – those who will demonstrate the praises of the Savior of all people (**John 4:23; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Timothy 4:10**); yet, the larger portion of the human population doesn’t even claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Notably, according to pewforum.com,

In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009 (October 17, 2019).

Numbering over 300 million citizens as of 2019, the United States alone is relatively small on the world scale. To be sure, YaleGlobal Online reported that the “world population now stands at 7.8 billion inhabitants, having reached the 7 billion milestone in 2011.” Approximately 2 ½ billion people identify as being Christian (that is, to the world’s measure). Even if all who claim to practice Christianity in accordance with the will of the Lord, this still leaves some 5.3 billion souls “hiding” from and all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving God. Not that anyone can truly hide from God (see **Psalms 139**), let’s be careful that we don’t play hide and seek from the one whose eyes are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good (**Proverbs 15:3**).

March 14, 2021

Weekly Ministry Information



Sunday:

AM Worship* 10:00
*All other previously scheduled public services are currently suspended until further notice in response to the pandemic.

Maintaining Good Works:

- Annual Youth Events
- Bible Class* (for all ages)
- Local Food Pantry
- Back-Pack Buddies
- Gulf Coast Bible Camp
- Sunnybrook Children’s Home
- Foreign Missions:
 - India*
 - Guyana, South America*

YouTube Channel:

*Vancleave Church of Christ
Digital Ministries*

Local Network Access:

SSID: 2Wire029
Key: 3995723302

Mailing Address:

11101 Hwy 57
Vancleave, MS 39565 **Office**
Phone: 228-826-4949
Email: vco_christ@att.net

Announcements and Prayer Requests

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry ~ P salms 34:15

- Please continue to remember these and others previously listed who are still in need of prayer:
 - Earl and Linda Kenney, Wayne and Lanette Girod, Jerry and Virginia Mobley
 - Teachers, Students, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, our Military and our Local and National Leadership
 - Let's also remember world missions and especially those whom we support, including Irvin Skinner and Jerris and Juanita Bullard, and Sunnybrook Children's Home.
 - Others: _____

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:** Our world's human population is said to be over 7 billion and growing. Yet, there's still plenty of room for the feeling of loneliness! Jesus might have felt alone when the disciples abandoned Him near the end of His earthly life; still, He remained faithful to God because He knew His Heavenly Father had not abandoned Him. The Lord made similar promises to us:

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5; cf., Deuteronomy 31:6)

- **Service times** are currently limited to *SUNDAY MORNINGS ONLY (at 10:00) with no Bible class, no evening services nor mid-week services.* The eldership has carefully determined this to be an extra measure of caution against COVID-19 exposure, but it does not anticipate this to be a permanent change.

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.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, LET US CONTINUE TO OBSERVE GOOD HYGIENCE, SOCIAL DISTANCING, LEAVING PEW SEPARATORS IN PLACE AND LIMITING DIRECT / HAND-TO-HAND CONTACT WITH ONE ANOTHER TO MINIMIZE RISKS OF COVID-19.

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

Week 11

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	Deuteronomy 3-4	What are some things these people learned while wandering 40 years?
TUESDAY	Deuteronomy 5-7	God was being very stern and almost redundant. Why?
WEDNESDAY	Deuteronomy 8-10	What circumstances would cause you to recreate a gift someone destroyed?
THURSDAY	Deuteronomy 11-13	Why was the one location of worship important at this time?
FRIDAY	Deuteronomy 14-16	These are strange rules (to us); can we apply these principles today? How?
SATURDAY	Deuteronomy 17-20	God would raise a prophet "like unto" Moses. Who would this be?
SUNDAY	Deuteronomy 21-23	Reflect on one of these laws and how it shows love for God and others.

I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. P salms 119:15