

Vancleave Weekly Bulletin

Dedicated to Spiritual Encouragement and Christian Ministry

Faith and Works by Duane Patton

The Bible is a book to be studied. Lack of Bible study sometimes leads to misunderstandings of biblical truths regarding matters of faith. An example of such misunderstandings concerns the relationship between faith and works. Of course, if this misunderstanding was a mere matter of indifference or opinion, then we might focus our time better elsewhere. Since both faith and works relate directly to salvation, the serious Bible student should consider such a topic as “time well spent.”

People generally don't disagree on what the Bible *actually* says; instead, they disagree on what they *think* the Bible says. On the matter of faith and works there are statements in the Bible that, if isolated from the rest of Scripture, seem to say that faith and works are mutually exclusive. In reality, the Bible student is obligated to consider more than a verse here or there before drawing conclusions as to the meaning of any passage. For instance, the Bible teaches that we are saved “not by works of righteousness which we have done but by His mercy...” (**Titus 3:5**; cf., **Romans 9:12**; **Ephesians 2:9**; **Galatians 2:16**). Yet again, we also learn that all men will be rewarded according to their works (**Matthew 10:45**; cf., **2 Corinthians 5:10**). Reconciling salvation by faith when works are also in view can be difficult, but it need not be too difficult. Moreover, since God is the author of Scripture and can neither lie nor contradict Himself, it is we, the students of Scripture, that should be making the extra effort to find the harmony in the two seemingly contradictory matters of salvation.

To help solve this salvific dilemma, the Bible challenges us to understand a basic proposition: that it is both faith *and* works, not faith *or* works that lead to salvation. The key, however, is to distinguish between works of *human merit* (or, plans contrived by mere men) and works of *faith* (or, obedience to the will of God). God has never rewarded life to those who attempt to be justified through human merit, as though God owes salvation to anyone *based on* human effort. But, the Lord did not die so that men might abandon their responsibility to God. Rather, *based on* His sacrificial act of humility, God's Son “became the author of salvation to all who obey Him” (**Hebrews 5:8, 9**; cf. **2:10**; **Romans 6:17**; **Matthew 12:50**; **1 John 2:17**; **Revelation 1:3**; **22:14-15**). Faith and works.

March 21, 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:

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Vancleave, MS 39565 **Office**
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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:**
 - ✓ **Henry Tanner:** Not well after a new cancer diagnosis. Please remember Henry in prayer.
 - ✓ **Christy Brown:** Has requested our continued prayers for her family and for herself.
 - ✓ **Tornado Victims:** Last week's storms across the south caused much destruction and damage to both property and lives.

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**.

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.

- **WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT:** In light of the many difficulties and adjustments we have all had to make over the past year, let's try to be mindful that God, the One who cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18) has promised relief those who have put their trust in Him!

"For the Son of Man Shall come in the glory of His Father with His angles; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." (Matthew 10:45)

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.

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 12

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	Deuteronomy 24-27	Did God's strict words make a difference in Israel's future?
TUESDAY	Deuteronomy 28-29	Our faith focuses on both negative and positive. Why?
WEDNESDAY	Deuteronomy 30-31	Try to apply 31:23 to something happening in your own life.
THURSDAY	Deuteronomy 32-34 (cf., Psalms 91)	God blesses Israel's tribes. How might this make you think how God has or will bless you own family?
FRIDAY	Joshua 1-4	What was amazing about Rahab's insight into the God of the Hebrews?
SATURDAY	Joshua 5-8	Maybe ridiculous looking to others, why was Israel's actions important?
SUNDAY	Joshua 9-12	A notable O.T. miracle, what are your thoughts on the sun standing still?

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