

Vancleave Church of Christ

Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry

May 16, 2021

The Faith that Saves *by Duane Patton*

Scripture teaches that without faith “it is impossible to please God” (**Hebrews 11:6**). Even from such a short passage we can learn much. For example, we learn of the necessity of faith in view of pleasing God, and we also learn that God is one who may be pleased or displeased with us. Consider, too, this following passage from the text just prior to the statement above.

“...do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ‘For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.’ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” (**Hebrews 10:35-39**)

The writer to the Hebrews previously encouraged saving faith in a series of discussions and examples about the superiority of Jesus Christ over all things in heaven and on earth; specifically, over the Law system given to Israel through Moses. Now, the writer begins to remind the reader of an Old Testament passage that indicates God’s displeasure in anyone who turns away from a life of faith in Christ and back to a life of sin. So severe is the consequence of leaving the Lord that the writer employs the word “perdition” – another way of describing the idea of eternal destruction with reference to the soul.

Over the years there has been lots of discussion on whether a child of God once saved by God’s grace in Christ can ever so sin / displease God that he or she can again be forever lost. With passages such as the one quoted above one might think the whole idea of the impossibility of apostasy (i.e., a child of God falling from grace so as to be eternally lost) is unscriptural and does not comport with the whole of the Gospel – and if you are one who thinks that, then you are right! We learn from a better study of the biblical text that, in strong opposition to a casual, passive, unscriptural faith, the faith that saves is a living, constant faith in the one whose grace causes our souls to grow stronger with each passing day and in every circumstance of life. With such a faith God is well pleased, and the blood of Christ still flows to cover our daily struggle against the limited, but deadly power of sin (cf. **1 John 2:1-6**)!

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

David Robinson's dad is having a very difficult time. Please pray for the Robinson family.

Angie Kiekhafer had a heart cath. this past week. All clear, but still having other medical issues.

Kenya Robinson (daughter of Mary Culbreth) needs heart transplant.

Rita Robison of Vancleave community has been diagnosed with colon cancer.

Sharon Smith also of Vancleave community is receiving cancer treatments and will need our prayers.

Kathy Horton is dealing with blood problems and other issues. Our prayers are welcomed at this time.

Jerry Zoller of Vancleave is still struggling with serious health issues and needs our prayers.

Virginia Mobley continues to battle blood pressure problems and other ailments.

Others: _____

NOTE: Immediately after morning services, there will be a brief meeting down front with the ladies of this congregation.

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: Some things in life are difficult to understand, but God calls on us to trust Him by embracing those things that are not so hard to understand – the love of one another is one of those things!

“...A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
~ Jesus, John 13:34

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

Week 20

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	2 Samuel 13-15	What were the consequences of David's inaction?
TUESDAY	Ps. 3-4, 12-13, 2, 55	How might these words help us in times of heartbreak?
WEDNESDAY	2 Samuel 16-18	In David's case, how was the loss of his child compounded?
THURSDAY	Ps. 26, 40, 58, 61, 62, 64	In what ways do these Psalms reveal patience?
FRIDAY	2 Samuel 19-21	Disgusting. Why do you think David offered 7 lives? Was it worth it?
SATURDAY	Ps. 5, 38, 41-42	Pick the Psalm that gives you the most peace. Meditate on why.
SUNDAY	2 Samuel 22-23, Ps 57	Note the different words of a dying man, one older, one younger.

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