

Vancleave Church of Christ

Weekly Bulletin

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry

May 2, 2021

The Gospel and Confession by Duane Patton

While confession is not the only act of faith associated with God's plan to save mankind from the eternally horrible effects of sin, it is a truly remarkable one. Our Lord taught as much when He announced to the disciples, "Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God" (**Luke 12:8, 9**). Confession is not to be understood merely as a one-time event since the Christian life is one of constant declaration that of being identified with Jesus. The original word translated into English as "confession" means to acknowledge something or someone. Some Israelite leaders during the life of Jesus refused to acknowledge Him as the Savior whom God provided because they feared that they would lose their constant position of local power (viz., **John 9:22; 12:42**). Yet, it is Jesus, the confession of our hope, who will forever confess / acknowledge before God the Father those who are His faithful followers (**Rev. 3:5, 12, 21**).

Maybe one of the most memorable or well-known passages of Scripture mentioning confession as related to salvation is found in Romans 10. There Paul the apostle affirms that when our lives are aligned with the life of Christ and His will for us – when we refuse to deny our faith in Jesus as Lord – we have full assurance of our salvation. Paul wrote that, as a part of the faith we preach, "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (**Romans 10:8, 9**). The discerning Bible student understands that God's word about Jesus must be heard and believed, that repentance and baptism are all involved in the conversion process, but also that confession is that simple, yet profound and necessary declaration of what one believes in their heart about the grace of God in Christ. Let us, like the Ethiopian nobleman, not be ashamed of Jesus, but rather, begin our walk with the Lord by confessing, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (**Acts 8:37**). It should be no wonder that such a confession of belief was made. After all, as John the apostle has written, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" (**1 John 5:1**). Again, while confession is not the only act of the faith that saves, it is a remarkable part of the Gospel itself!

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

Ken Ramsey (Lanette G's cousin) is on hospice and in need of our prayers.

Dino Vechio is suffering from cancer and in need of our prayers.

Jack Hayes is recovering from a very serious surgery and in need of our prayers.

Tommy Davis has stage 4 cancer and is on hospice. Our prayers are requested.

Penny Balm has shingles and is in need of our prayers.

George Fain is at home with medical complications and needs our prayers.

Mark Pritchert (Donna Clegg's grandson) is in a sling for 3 months. **Jim Nyers** has a hip replacement and both Mark and Jim are in need of our prayers.

Others: _____

Today is 1st Sunday fellowship and we also will be celebrating our High School graduates, **Samson Wages** and **Parker Lyons**. We also would like to say congratulations to **Katie Nabors, Alex and Heidi Patton** for finishing their undergraduate work!

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 or simply text or leave a voice message at **601-436-0868**.

WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Without God there is no real peace in this world and even less in the one to come!

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid..." (John 14:27, 28)

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

Week 18

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	2 SAMUEL 5:1-10; 1 CHRONICLES 11-12	What are the differences between these two passages covering the same event?
TUESDAY	PSALMS 133	Think personally about this psalm and what it means to you.
WEDNESDAY	PSALMS 106-107	Name several lines in succession that you relate to most.
THURSDAY	2 SAM. 5:11-25; 2 SAM. 6:1-23; 1 CHRON. 13-16	David was excited as ever when the Ark returned. What might excite you this much?
FRIDAY	PSALMS 1-2, 15, 22- 24, 46, 68	Which psalms resonate with you more, the happy or suffering ones?
SATURDAY	PSALMS 89, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132	What can you take from these psalms into your personal worship?
SUNDAY	2 SAMUEL 7; 1 CHRONICLES 17,	How do these stories differ, and what is important in each of them?

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