

# Vancleave Church of Christ

## Weekly Newsletter

*Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and Christian ministry*

*May 9, 2021*

### **The Gospel and Baptism** *by Duane Patton*

**W**ithout any controversy, the matter of baptism as related to the faith in Jesus was not an issue for several hundred years after the New Testament came into effect. Jesus taught Nicodemus (a ruler of the Jews) about its relation to the new birth and the kingdom of heaven, and later, after His resurrection and just prior to His ascension, He commanded it as a matter of discipleship to endure until the end of the human experience (**John 3:3-5; Matthew 28:18-20**). It should come as no surprise to the reader of God's holy word that the official spokesmen for Christ included baptism in the first Gospel sermon ever recorded as having been preached. After all, these early evangelists understood much about baptism that so few seem to understand today and about which many of whom strongly oppose.

Luke recorded Peter as having preached the Gospel to thousands of Jews who had gathered for the annual celebration of Pentecost. The main point of Peter's sermon was this: "...let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (**Acts 3:26**). Being convinced by the earlier points Peter brought up about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection as confirmed by eyewitness testimony, miracles, and prophecy, many were deeply moved by the evidence of their guilt and need of God's mercy. So, they asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" to which Peter announced, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**2:38a**). We later learn from the text that around 3,000 people did what Peter and the other apostles commanded. From that moment forward, and throughout the remaining biblical record, the necessity of immersion into a watery grave that symbolized the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus became an essential part of the Gospel message just as necessary and no more a work of human merit than that of hearing the message of Jesus and believing it, repentance from sin and confession of belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Since the plan of God clearly identifies baptism as a crucial part of our faith in Jesus, who are we to neglect it or reject it? In the end, please allow me to borrow a few words of Scripture, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." (**Hebrews 2:1**)

### **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

**Henry Tanner** recently passed away and his funeral was this past Friday. Our sympathies and prayers go out on behalf of the Tanner family along with Dianne Robinson and Charlene Bosarge.

**David Robinson's dad** has been having a very difficult time recently with his kidneys and heart.

**Suzette Saucier** was involved in a fatal car crash recently. She is in ICU.

**Jerry Zolar** of Vancleave is having multiple physical issues and needs our prayers.

**Jerry and Virginia Mobley** are suffering from blood pressure problems and other ailments.

Continue to remember these in prayer: **Ken Ramsey, Dino Vechio, Jack Hayes, Tommy Davis, Penny Balm, George Fain, Mark Pritchert, Jim Nyers,** and others.

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 on past or current prayer requests or other announcements, please share them by sending an email to [vco\\_Christ@att.net](mailto:vco_Christ@att.net) or simply text or leave a voice message at **601-436-0868**.

**WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: There is nothing too difficult for the Lord. Why not become His friend?**

“...and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.” James 2:23

### Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

#### Week 19

Day	Passage	Thoughts for Meditation
MONDAY	Psalms 25, 29, 33 36, 39	Psalms 33...what can you learn from David and for what has God forgiven you? This Psalm was written after David had been forgiven for adultery.
TUESDAY	2 Samuel 8-9, 1 Chronicles 18	After being chased for 15 years by Saul, David seeks to be kind to one of Saul's relatives. What can we learn from this?
WEDNESDAY	Psalms 50, 53, 60, 75	Which Psalm strikes you most deeply and why?
THURSDAY	2 Samuel 10, 1 Chron 19 Psalms 20	King Hanun was possibly paranoid. How might we prevent paranoia?
FRIDAY	Psalms 65-67-69-70	What might we learn from these Psalms, and which one moves you the most?
SATURDAY	2 Samuel 11-12	What can we learn about the winning stages in our lives?
SUNDAY	Psalms 32, 51, 86, 122	These are very moving Psalms. Which one moves you most?

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