

Vanceleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

October 3, 2021

Scripture Reading: James 3:2-5

The Last shall be First *by Duane Patton*

Jesus taught the following to the early disciples regarding service in His kingdom:

“...everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (**Matthew 19:29, 30**, NKJV)

Sometimes this teaching has given rise to the idea of an “upside down kingdom.” Who in the world would think that being first means being last, or that being last means that one is actually first? It is true that this makes little sense compared to worldly affairs. The runner who crosses the finish line first is the winner, there’s no prize for last place. Once famous, now deceased, NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt, is known for having said, “Second place is first loser.” One writer remarked how some take the notion of being first in everything too far, saying “When somebody starts acting like second place is for losers, it doesn't matter if you've won a footrace with everyone on the planet and bested 6,999,999,998 people. All that matters is you didn't beat the one” (source: <https://vtropes.org>).

Of course, the problem with this attitude is that it fails to take into consideration that, regardless of how on top of our “game” in this life we may be, it’s the one to come that we need to be successful in attaining. The bad news? “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (**Romans 3:23**). But, here is the very good news: “[T]hanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” (1 **Corinthians 15:57**). Jesus died so that we might have life; He defeated the enemy that we could not, and He is even kind to the unthankful (**2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 20:28; Luke 6:35**).

“...humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time”

1 Peter 5:6, NASB

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 & Bible Study

Local Works of Faith:

Sunnybrook Children’s Home
Gulf Coast Bible Camp
Local Food Pantry

Annual Youth Events
Back-Pack Buddies

The Gospel of Christ TV (Fox 25)
Every Sunday at 6:30 AM

Foreign Missions:

Guyana, South America
India

Subscribe to these on YouTube:

Vanceleave Church of Christ Digital
Ministries
The Mississippi Gospel Minute

Local Wi-Fi Network Access:

SSID: 2Wire029

Key: 3995723302

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Prayer Requests and Announcements

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open into their cry. ~ Psalms 34:15

Recent Requests:

Gregory Cooley: Nephew of sis. Sheila Lowery, is to have open heart surgery this Tuesday at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Our prayers have been requested.

Patricia Savulchak: Facing serious health issues. Prayers are requested for her healing and comfort.

David Hinds: Continue to remember David in prayer. He faces several medical difficulties.

Frank Sentelle: Still in need of our prayers as he continues to deal with cancer / treatments.

Terry and Bonnie Thornton: Both have been diagnosed with Covid and in need of prayers.

Brother RW McAlister is losing his battle with COVID. Please remember his family as he passes.

Dama South: Aunt of sis. Cindy Stevens, passed away yesterday. Prayers for family are welcomed.

Judy Hinton: David Robinson's cousin, is to have cancer surgery Wednesday and needs our prayers.

Mary McDaniel: Brennen Perry's grandmother, is awaiting test results. Please continue to pray.

Al Lowery is preaching today while brother Duane is away. THANK YOU Bro. Lowery!

VISIT OUR NEW, CHURCH WEB SITE! <https://vancleavemchurch.org>

Others: _____

Continue to remember these:

Earl and Linda Kenney Jerry and Virginia Mobley Wayne and Lanette Girod

Mike Kenney

If you have any updates / corrections on any prayer requests or other announcements, please share them by sending an email to vcocministry@vancleavemchurch.org

WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: All those who love the Lord are blessed by Him.

“O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful”

(Psalms 31:23, KJV)

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021

Week 38

MONDAY	Ezra 1-3	Why would a pagan king help God's people?
TUESDAY	Ezra 4-6, Ps 137	Why did the returning remnant have to endure such struggles?
WEDNESDAY	Haggai 1, 2	Does 1:5, 6 seem like a curse or a consequence to unrepentant sin?
THURSDAY	Zechariah 1-7	How is the tone of Zechariah different than that of Haggai?
FRIDAY	Zechariah 8-14	Note how much symbolic language describes the Messiah.
SATURDAY	Esther 1-5	Have you ever, like Esther, tried to hide your faith for some reason?
SUNDAY	Esther 6-10	Here might be a good example of the law of sowing and reaping.

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