

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

September 19, 2021

Scripture Reading: *Philippians 4:9*

The Art of Peace *by Duane Patton*

Sun Tzu (Yes, it is spelled with a “T” and is pronounced, “Soon-Zee), a Chinese general, military strategist, writer and philosopher who lived in the Eastern Zhou period of ancient China (around 500 B.C.) is traditionally credited as the author of *The Art of War*, an influential work of military strategy that has affected both Western and East Asian philosophy and military thinking. His works focus much more on alternatives to battle, such as stratagem, delay, the use of spies and alternatives to war itself, the making and keeping of alliances, etc. Well over 2,000 years now, the teachings of this well-known war strategy guide have been inculcated by many modern-day military combat schools throughout the world. Note, however, that the prophet Isaiah, in one place in his own writings (ca. 735 B.C.), referred to a time when, instead of war, peace would break out. With an ultimate view of the eternal kingdom established by Jesus, the “prince of peace” (**9:6**; cf., **Ephesians 2:13-18**; **Colossians 1:19-23**; **Romans 5:1ff**) Isaiah also addressed war but in a very different manner:

“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (**Isaiah 2:4**, KJV)

So, it seems best to this Bible student to encourage more reading about the *Art of “Peace”* than the *Art of War*. While there is room enough in this life to broaden the scope of our understanding of those ancient winning strategies still fit for the battles of this life, none are so well-written, so pointedly-directed at the heart of the greatest problem in this world (i.e., sin, viz. **Romans 3:23**; **6:23**) than the wise words and pure deeds of the one who conquered death, bringing peace to all (**Luke 2:10, 11**).

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27, NKJV)

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, Devotional

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 our YouTube Channel:

Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries

Local Wi-Fi Network Access:

SSID: 2Wire029
Key: 399572302
E-mail: vco_christ@att.net

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:

Frank Sentelle: Scheduled to visit Ochsner on September 23rd for follow up from recent tests.

Nic Wages: Doing some better after recent injection for back pain.

David Hines: (the father of Rachael Hines, physical therapist for Jerry Wages): Dealing with a serious blood condition. Being evaluated and treated at MD Anderson, Houston, TX.

RW McAlister (a Gospel preacher and University teacher in Illinois): On ventilator with COVID-19, not doing much better at this time.

Let's be sure to remember all of our first responders, military and others who serve to protect the lives and liberties of all people as we face so much uncertainty on a world scale along with frequent natural disasters.

Others: _____

Continue to remember these:

Lacey Majors Mary McDaniel Christy Brown Mike Kenney
Earl and Linda Kenney Jerry and Virginia Mobley

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: Even when we aren't aware, God is always on the look-out to take good care of all who love Him.

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."
(Proverbs 15:3, KJV)

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021 Week 36

MONDAY	Ezekiel 24-27	What comparison is made with Ezekiel's deceased wife?
TUESDAY	Ezekiel 28-31	Do you think today's world rulers think of themselves as being gods?
WEDNESDAY	Ezekiel 32-34	Look again at God's plea in 33:11. Why do you think the people didn't listen?
THURSDAY	Ezekiel 35-37	What event in history is accurately associated with the vision of the dry bones?
FRIDAY	Ezekiel 38-39	Give thought to the mention of Gog & Magog with regard to spiritual battle.
SATURDAY	Ezekiel 40-41	What is it about this Temple vision that resonates with you? Why?
SUNDAY	Ezekiel 42-43	God returns to the Temple when it is restored. Why did God leave?

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