

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

January 9, 2022

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:7, 8

The Next Five Minutes (by Hugh Fulford via House to House Heart to Heart)

Leonard Johnson, one founder of Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, once preached a sermon in a Gospel meeting in a small Alabama town. In it he said, "In the next five minutes, I am going to tell you everything the New Testament says about the name of the church." For the next five minutes, brother Johnson did not utter a word. Then he said, "There you have it—everything the New Testament says about the name of the church."

Johnson was right—the church, the body of people redeemed to God by Christ's blood, does not have a proper, formal, exclusive, and patented name. It was not and is not a denomination and does not wear a denominational designation. Instead, the New Testament gives numerous descriptors for the church. The church (the aggregate of all who have been saved by obedience to the gospel) is the spiritual body of Christ, of which there is but one (**Ephesians 1:22–23; 4:4**). It is the spiritual temple of God, being composed of living stones (**Ephesians 2:19–22**). It is the house (-hold, family) of God, with every child of God a member of it (**1 Timothy 3:15**). It is the kingdom of God's dear Son (**Colossians 1:13**; cf. **Acts 2:47**). Christ called it "My church" (**Matthew 16:18**). A plurality of local congregations are "churches of Christ" (**Romans 16:16**). At the same time, they also are "churches of God" (**1 Corinthians 11:16**), and the universal body of redeemed people is called the "church of God" (**11:22**). Geographically, God's people are spoken of as the church at Jerusalem, the church of God which is at Corinth, the churches of Judea, the churches of Galatia, and the seven churches of Asia. Modern Catholic and Protestant names are noticeably absent and came to be applied to religious groups arising since the New Testament.

Churches of Christ today strive to be the church of the New Testament order. We do not profess to be a denomination. The use of the biblical descriptor "church of Christ" is not intended as our official name. Any biblical descriptor is acceptable. However, in our divided religious world, it is practical to consistently use the same descriptor.

Seeking first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness...

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
India
Guam

Local Wi-Fi Network Access:

SSID: 2Wire029

Key: 3995723302

E-mail: vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org

Web Site: <https://www.vancleavemschurch.org>

Subscribe to these on YouTube:

Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries
The Mississippi Gospel Minute



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

Recent Prayer Requests:

→ **COVID-19 has recently gripped several of our loved ones. These include:**

Jennifer Lovato, Weldon MacAdams, The Robinson family, The Holmes Family, Jerry and Ellen Wages; among others, please remember these in prayer.

→ **Ethan Dean Sentelle:** Recently endured back surgery due to auto wreck.

→ **Dino Vechio:** Showing some signs of improvement.

→ **Others:** _____

Please Continue to Remember These in Prayer

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|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| David Hines | Harvey Goldensup | Cindy Stevens | Maxine Robinson |
| Tonya Organ | Joe Dorris Box | Amy Stevens | Mary Culbreth |
| Jack Hayes | Roy Corbin | Mary McDaniel | Mark Damron |
| Paul Langham | Mary Alice Kenney | Mike Kenney | |

Have requests or other announcements? Send email to vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org

Announcements: Limited Social Distancing measures are being renewed until further notice during the assembly. For those who wish to do so, face masks are encouraged and will be provided for those who may need one.

WEEKLY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: **Hold to God's unchanging hand!** "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6)

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 2021, Week 51

MONDAY 1 Timothy 1-6

What seems to be the central theme of this letter to Timothy?

TUESDAY 2 Timothy 1-4

What does Paul say is the best protection against false teaching in the church?

WEDNESDAY Titus 1-3

How does good works and grace harmonize with one another?

THURSDAY 1 Peter 1-5

Think about a time when you had to do the right thing when it was difficult. Did it help your faith?

FRIDAY Hebrews 1-6

How might this section of Scripture affirm or support your faith in Jesus Christ?

SATURDAY Hebrews 7-10

How might being a member of the local church help you to endure difficult times?

SUNDAY Hebrews 11-13

How should the heroes of faith (Ch. 11) inspire you to even stronger faith in Jesus?

"...they received the word with all readiness of mind..." (Acts 17:11)