

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

February 13, 2022

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-3

Deliver Us From Evil by Duane Patton

The definition of the word “evil” can be understood in different ways. For example, Webster’s Dictionary describes evil as “something causing harm or injury to someone” or a thing marked by bad luck or bad events. Sometimes evil is the word that relates to suffering, misfortune, and wrongdoing, or something that brings sorrow, distress, or calamity. I suppose that most folks understand evil in these ways. In fact, a prominent atheistic position alleges that there is no God as evidenced by the problem of evil in the world. The classic question asked from the atheist position is that if God is all-loving, all-knowing and all-powerful, why is evil still in the world? If God is all-loving and all-knowing He must not be all-powerful because if He was then He would be powerful enough to rid the world of evil. If God is all-powerful and all-knowing, then He must not be all-loving; after all, an all-loving God would rid the world of evil. If God is all-powerful and all-loving, He must not be all-knowing, or else He would know the full impact of evil and powerfully, lovingly rid the world of it. Therefore, the atheist reasons, if any one of the three attributes (love, knowledge, power) is lacking or absent, then God – the God of the Bible - cannot possibly exist. However, consider this: if evil indicates something exists that is objectively bad, or objectively wrong, then there must be some standard of objective good by which to judge it to be so! That standard objective good, the Bible declares, is God!

Real objective evil does exist in our world. But it is not merely something causing harm or injury to someone. Evil, as described in Scripture, does not necessarily always relate to suffering, misfortune, or something that brings sorrow, distress or calamity. Of course, there is a sense in which God has in times past brought “evil” on certain nations and people. But this is almost always in the sense of harm or injury due as a measure of justifiable censure or punishment for their unrelented moral disobedience to His previously revealed will. When Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world, He brought an end to *the only real evil in this world; that is, sin* (Daniel 9:24; Hebrews 2:17; 9:27, 28; 1 John 2:1-2; 3:5), and, thereby delivered us from evil! Jesus’ model prayer included the desire for the heavenly Father to “deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13). John the apostle affirms that the Father did just that! Stated another way, Jesus’ work at Calvary effectively removed evil by defeating the prime motivator behind every sin, the adversary of all that is objectively good: “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8b; cf., John 12:31).

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

(John 12:27)

Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

| Services: | Local Works of Faith: | Foreign Missions: | Subscribe to these on YouTube: |
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| <u>Sunday:</u> 9 AM Bible Class 10AM Worship 6 PM Worship | Sunnybrook Children’s Home Gulf Coast Bible Camp Local Food Pantry Annual Youth Events | Guyana India Guam | <i>Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries</i> <i>The Mississippi Gospel Minute</i> |
| <u>Wednesday:</u> 6 PM Prayer & Bible Class | Back-Pack Buddies The Gospel of Christ TV (Every Sunday at 6:30 AM, Fox 25) | | |



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

Recent Prayer Requests & Announcements

- **Virginia Mobley:** Surgery was successful, and she is thankful for our continued prayers.
- **Carolyn Hart's cousin,** Jerry, was severely injured in a hit and run while walking. He is 80.
- **David Hines:** To travel to Houston for further testing regarding his blood disorder.
- **Rexanne Rigdon:** Now home and thankful for our many prayers on her behalf.
- **Andrew Sawyer:** Dealing with various medical issues. Please pray of Andrew.
- **Frank Sentelle:** Beginning therapy for cancer. Frank needs our prayers.
- **Jo Lichtenbaugh:** Surgery for stenosis of the arteries. She needs our prayers.
- **Judy Hinton:** Recent heart cath. She has been referred to a heart specialist.
- **Linda Kenney:** Earl has requested special prayer for Linda for a very serious problem.
- **Early Kenney:** Recent nasal surgery; home recovering but requests our prayers.
- **Others:** _____

Please Continue to Remember These in Prayer

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| Peggy Flasch | Rita Herring | Harvey Goldensup | Maxine Robinson | Tonya Organ |
| Joe Dorris Box | Amy Stevens | Mary Culbreth | Jack Hayes | Mason Kleist |
| Roy Corbin | Mary McDaniel | Mark Damron | Mike Kenney | Lisa Wages |
| Paul Langham | Mary Alice Kenney | Dino Vecchio | Cindy Stevens | Christy Brown |
| Rita Herring | Tommy Shirley | | | |

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

Rightly Dividing the Word

A weekly synopsis of every book of the Bible with a memory verse designed to increase our faith

Leviticus: Also referred to as the “priestly” manual, the book’s title literally means “pertaining to the priests” (at that time, the priestly tribe of Israel, Levi). Leviticus relates God’s laws for the priesthood, serving under the Mosaic law system. It also goes into great detail on the many sacrifices they were to offer, the holy days Israel was to observe, and the services rendered at the Tabernacle. Leviticus contains God’s instructions for the moral purity of Israel while they were to look to the perfect sacrifice of the Messiah and the everlasting covenant made possible only through His blood (see Hebrews 10:1ff).

This week’s memory verse:

Leviticus 10:3

“I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all he people I will be glorified”



Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.