

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

April 24, 2022

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:20, 21

Let's Just Agree to Disagree by Duane Patton

I'm actually ok with that statement – so long as we are not discussing matters of faith relative to the salvation of the soul! Even then, I would not want to force anyone to accept what I believe about God's saving grace even if what I believed about it aligned with God's will! While, according to the Scriptures, there are just some things pertaining to salvation and sanctification that accountable humans must both accept and act upon to be saved (yes, there is such a thing a truth regarding matters of faith and practice, cf.; **John 8:32; John 17:17; Proverbs 23:23**; etc.); and, not even the Lord will compel anyone against their own will to embrace Him (**John 5:39f; 7:17; Matthew 23:37f; Revelation 22:12-17**).

I would like, therefore, to offer the following two suggestions to you, the reader. These are merely suggestions for arriving at more common ground when discussing your faith in Christ with others who may or may not be walking with the Lord. **First, begin with the end in mind.** What I mean is this. Conversations about God, man, sin, the Bible, Jesus, salvation, the church (its necessity, its organization, worship, etc.) end-times, Heaven, Hell and so forth are all matters about which we may encounter much disagreement at first. But, do all parties involved in the conversation believe that it is the Lord to whom we must, eventually, all give account (**Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 4:13**)? It may not please me or you that we agree with one another or not, but can we not agree that our mutual goal is to please the Lord? **Second, humbly accept that each can learn something from the other and be grateful.** For instance, Peter was an apostle, but Paul explained that on at least one occasion, he was guilty of hypocrisy. Later, Peter would refer to the "beloved brother Paul" (**Galatians 2:11ff; 2 Peter 3:15**). Inversely, Paul considered himself to be the "least of all" apostles, and he recognized his own need to continually grow and stay faithful (**1 Corinthians 15:9; 9:27; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:12ff**). Let's try to remember that there is no such thing as a faithful Christian who is not growing (viz. **2 Peter 3:17, 18**). I am thankful for those who, over the years, have lovingly corrected me in matters of faith. I'm thankful that they have been willing to share their beliefs with me so that I may not only understand them better, but dig deeper into the word of God to see if these things are so (**Acts 17:11**). Wouldn't you agree?

"And without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6)

Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

Services:

Sunday:

9 AM Bible Class

10AM Worship

6 PM Worship

Wednesday:

6 PM Prayer

& Bible Class

Local of Faith:

Sunnybrook Children's Home

Gulf Coast Bible Camp

Local Food Pantry

Annual Youth Events

Back-Pack Buddies

The Gospel of Christ TV

(Every Sunday at 6:30 AM, Fox 25)

Foreign Missions:

Guyana

India

Guam

Subscribe to these on YouTube:

Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries

The Mississippi Gospel Minute



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Recent Prayer Requests & Announcements

- **Heath Smith:** Has an aggressive form of cancer. Our prayers are much needed.
- **Dean Weaver:** Recently passed away. He is to have very private service in Starkville.
- **Cindy Stevens:** Still suffering with various issues from recent gall bladder removal.
- **Chris McDevitt:** Experiencing much pain from recent amputation. Prayers welcomed.
- **Stephen Soldo:** Still dealing with low blood platelets and treatments; prayers needed.
- **Greg Blanchard:** To have heart surgery on the 27th (Wednesday). Please pray for him.
- **The Echols Family whose father** took a hard fall from 25' needs our prayers.
- **Kimi Atkins:** Doctor is recommending kidney stones to be removed. Prayers needed.
- **Liz Madden's mother (Mrs. Brown)** passed away. Pray for her family at this time.
- **Ukraine:** Please continue to pray for our brethren in Ukraine, and for all who suffer.
- **Others:**

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

Please Continue to Remember These in Prayer

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| Harvey Goldensup | Maxine Robinson | Tonya Organ | Roy Corbin | Dino Vecchio |
| Judy Hinton | Jerry Kennedy | Rita Herring | Tommy Shirley | Connie Wages |
| Frank Sentelle | Jo Lichtenberg | David Hart | George Mertz | Jack Hayes |
| Mary McDaniel | Lanette Girod | Gene Thompson | David Hines | Nathan Smith |
| Paul Langham | Teddy Dearman | Linda Kenney | Earl Kenney | Joe Crawley |
| Greg Blanchard | Andrea Shofner | Scott Kiekhafer | | |

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

2 Kings: Spotlighting much of the prophetic work of both Elijah and Elisha (and some of Isaiah), 2 Kings records the last 65 years of Israel (to the north) and her defeat by Assyria (722/1 B.C.). It also vividly displays, in word pictures, the final 285 years of Judah (to the south) and of her fall to Babylon (606-586 B.C.) The book underscores the tragic results of a divided kingdom (cf., Luke 11:17) and the mostly-miserable lives of 39 kings, 31 of which were all bad (by God's standards for them). Nineteen kings of Israel were rotten and 12 of Judah equally wicked rulers. Although 8 of the 20 in Judah were "good" kings, they were exiled to foreign captivity. In 2 Kings, the kingdom of Israel is both split apart and "spoiled."

This week's memory verse:

"And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land" (2 Kings 25:21, KJV)



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