

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

April 3, 2022

Scripture Reading: Psalms 14:1-3

United in Matters of Faith? Part 4 By Duane Patton

Whereas some individuals of accountable age and mental responsibility have never once heard a word from the Bible, still others have heard only a twisted account of God's word. And some have even been conditioned against God's word. These are but a few reasons that help explain why so much confusion exists about the matter of faith – especially the unity of faith for which Jesus prayed when He bowed low before His heavenly Father. While praying for those disciples who would soon be His official, devoted spokesmen, our Savior said,

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (John 17:20, 21)

Despite our Lord's earnest prayer for unity, **some have turned away from God's word**. In vain, many teach and even more believe the error that once God pardons a soul from the guilt incurred by sin, that soul cannot afterward so sin as to be eternally lost. This error is embraced by many chiefly because of a failure to correctly understand the Scriptures on the meaning of eternal life. Yet, the Bible is clear on this. Peter once wrote, "You therefore, beloved, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness" (2 Peter 3:17; cf., 2:20, 21; Hebrews 4:11, ESV). Sadly, some in the first century were in danger of having "believed in vain" while others were in danger of falling from a state of grace (1 Corinthians 15:1, 2; Galatians 5:4). Paul prophesied that some previous faithful ones would turn away from the truth of God's word (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Acts 20:28-30). Jesus emphatically taught this in the parable of the soils: some would receive, believe and, in time, leave (Matthew 13:2; cf., John 15:8). Although these passages and others like them have been sorely abused and twisted by prominent influencers of homiletical prowess, New Testament writers have plainly documented the real possibility and deadly consequences of a precious soul turning away from God's word although that soul was saved and, for a time, kept by the power of God through faith (1 Peter 1:3-5). This, too, has led to much confusion over the Bible and matters of faith.

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." (Hebrews 10:38, KJV)

Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

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

- **Linda Kenney:** Sprained big toe and metatarsal. Please pray for sister Linda’s healing.
- **Amy Stevens** has passed way. We are saddened by this loss. Please pray for her family.
- **Jack Hayes:** Great news. Recent scans showed five nodules on lungs, but three nodules are now gone, and the other two are greatly diminished!
- **Scott Kiekhafer:** Swelling and pain reduced/gone. Scott has a follow up with his primary physician soon. Prayers are still very much welcomed!
- **David Hines:** Fluid around heart preventing bone marrow transplant. Please pray.
- **Nathan Smith:** Recent stroke; now at St. Dominic’s Hospital. Our prayers are requested.
- **Greg Blanchard:** Heart issues and possible open-heart surgery upcoming. Prayer helps.
- **Bill and Patty Whitehouse:** As Bill is now under hospice care and taking meds to provide some comfort, please pray for both Bill and Patty.
- **Baby Shower for Benjamin (Alex) and Heidi Patton:** April 3rd (Today after fellowship meal). They are registered at Amazon.com. Due to limited space on their return flights, please consider very small gifts (gift cards, etc.) or choose free shipping to their home address: 157 Hornbeam Road Groton, Connecticut 06340

Please Continue to Remember These in Prayer

Harvey Goldensup	Maxine Robinson	Tonya Organ	Roy Corbin	Dino Vecchio
Judy Hinton	Jerry Kennedy	George Mertz	Rita Herring	Tommy Shirley
Andrea Shofner	Kim Atkins	Connie Wages	Frank Sentelle	Jo Lichtenberg
Chris McDevitt	Paul Langham	Teddy Dearman	Earl and Linda Kenney	

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

1 Samuel: Samuel was a prophet and the last of the Judges who rescued Israel during some of the nation’s darkest days, morally speaking. This book details Samuel’s work as a Judge in Israel. It also provides great insight on the nation’s desire for an earthly king and the forty-year reign and tragic death of Saul. Saul was the king Israel wanted when they rejected God as their King, (viz., 8:6). The book also records the anointing of David as Saul’s successor. In 1 Samuel, the kingdom of Israel is solidified.

This week’s memory verse:

“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, ‘Nay; but we will have a king over us’”
(1 Samuel 8:19)



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