

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

May 22, 2022

Scripture Reading: Revelation 20:12

Sin, by Any Other Name... by Duane Patton

“**W**hat’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet” is a famous line in William Shakespeare’s famous poem *Romeo and Juliet*. It is spoken by Juliet as she’s standing on her balcony, considering her situation with Romeo and the feud their families have been engaged in for years. Juliet says that names do not make something that it is, but it was their family names which kept them apart. She reasoned that even if a rose had a different name other than “rose,” it would still be the same flower. Likewise, even if Romeo had a different name, he’d still be Romeo. The name does not change him, nor her love for him. No intent to do damage to poetry, apply this sentiment to the spiritual realm of sin.

We often hear the phrase, “all sin is sin.” While some sins present themselves as more odious and repulsive than others (both to God and to us), yet, it only takes a single instance of sin to create a breach in a once beautiful relationship between God and ourselves! Isaiah announced to God’s covenant people of old, “Your sins have separated you from God so that He will not hear” (**Isaiah 59:1, 2**). Sin – the transgression of God’s will by humans – is an affront to God because it destroys fellowship between the Creator and the created. We observe this daily even though we don’t openly name it as sin. In fact, we give different names to sin, names that we feel won’t cause us much emotional discomfort, if any. Yet, God is still deeply offended, and the human soul is still in danger! Abortion (murder of unborn humans), embezzlement (stealing from the boss), perjury (lying while under oath); affair (cheating on one’s spouse); same-sex marriage (fornication) and so on. Regardless of what label or name people have attached to behaviors that both hurt and destroy otherwise good relationships between men and God, and one’s own fellow human, the nature of the relationally destructive act is still what God’s identifies as sin. It is something that always results in death of some kind (**Romans 6:23**).

Thankfully, God is the lover of our souls (**John 3:16f**)! Rather than standing atop a lone balcony opining for only one discrete love, He reached boldly over an otherwise impassible gap that stood between every one of us and Himself. He built a kind of bridge between Heaven and earth when His Son, Jesus, laid down His life for us so that we, by faith in Him, could finally gain access to eternal life and peace with God (**Ephesians 2:17-19**).

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12, KJV).

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 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

(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

Elsie Ashcraft: Has been very sick lately, she recently fell again also and suffered some bruising.

Ron Webb: Suffered recently with very high fever. Recovering well, but still very weak.

Wayne Girod: Fell last week and possibly broke a rib(s) Still in much pain.

Mary Alice Kenney: Broke her arm when trying to lift herself from her mechanical chair. Although she is in good spirits, she needs our prayers. The incident occurred one day after her 84th birthday!

Heath Smith: He and his family continue to need our prayers as he deals with cancer/treatments.

Others: _____

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

Please refer to previous Newsletter for those who need continued prayers

Darlene Guston	Barbara Patton	Gayle Williams	Norma Jean Hart
Linda Kenney	Earl Kenney	Keiundra Huddleston	Cindy Stevens
Kimi Atkins	Charlie Tanner	Judy Hinton	Liz Logan

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

Nehemiah: After receiving permission from the Persian King, Artaxerxes (ca. 458/457 B.C.), Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem thirteen years after the return of Ezra. Nehemiah begins to rebuild the city wall of Jerusalem and to make social reform. Ezra reads the Law to the people and reinstitutes God's ordained worship while also correcting moral indiscretions. These key events brought about a great revival in the land especially in view of the Messianic hope of the remnant who returned from Babylonian exile some 400-500 years prior to Christ's arrival.

This week's memory verse:

"Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy."

(Nehemiah 13:22, NKJV)



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