

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

July 3, 2022

Scripture Reading: John 8:35, 36

Bound For Freedom by Duane Patton

In one of his many letters, the apostle Paul announced, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free” (**Galatians 5:1**, KJV). The reason Jesus freely allowed Himself to be bound in human flesh – even if for less than forty years – was to forever release all people from the bonds of sin. After all, sin is like a cruel master whose goal is not merely to enslave but destroy the soul (**Romans 6:23**). Before and after our Lord’s incarnation, all humans lived not as free people but as creatures under bondage. The material world provided only a passing, false sense of liberty, and even that was only gained by some worldly means. But this is not the freedom received by followers of Christ. The Law itself – as given to Israel under the leadership of Moses - was of no value with regard to freedom needed since it could not, by both purpose and design – grant the cleansing of the conscience of past sins (**Romans 8:3**; cf., **Hebrews 9:12-14**). In fact, all the Law could effectively do was magnify sin – that was its real strength (**1 Corinthians 15:56**). Note this:

I discovered that the very commandment that was meant to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing its opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through the commandment put me to death (**Romans 7:10, 11**, Berean Study Bible)

Again, this time in the words of Peter while speaking to the leaders of the Jerusalem church, the Law of Moses was identified as “a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear” (**Acts 15:10**). This is an interesting thing, however. Jesus bound Himself to death to free all people from sin. Through the sacrifice of Himself, He paid the spiritual debt owed by everyone who sins, viz. **2 Corinthians 5:21**; **Romans 8:3, 4**).

This is why, on several occasions, the apostles would refer to themselves as being the bondservant of Christ (e.g., **Romans 1:1**, **Philippians 1:1**; **2 Peter 1:1**; **Jude 1**). Consider the statement as written to the church at Corinth by the apostle Paul, “For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise, he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ” (**1 Corinthians 7:22**, ESV). Being bound to Christ we are free from sin, free to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. We are most free when we are most bound to the Christ who set us free when He died on the cross, arose from the grave and announced the soul-saving message of the Gospel – the greatest expression and widest application of liberty any could ever enjoy!

Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

Services:	Local Works of Faith:	Foreign Missions:	Subscribe to these on YouTube:
<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	Vancleave Church of Christ Digital Ministries The Mississippi Gospel Minute
<u>Wednesday:</u> 6 PM Prayer & Bible Class	Back-Pack Buddies The Gospel of Christ TV (Every Sunday at 6:30 AM, Fox 25)		



1st Sunday of every month: Fellowship / Lunch followed by brief devotional, with no evening service.

E-mail: vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org **Web Site:** <https://www.vancleavechurch.org>

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Recent Prayer Requests & Announcements



Linda Kenney: Returned home after recent stay in Hospital for blood pressure issues.
Brooke Burnham: Young mother of 3, has Covid, a brain bleed and stroke. Prayers requested.
Casey Casey: Cousin of the Dianne Robinson, needs our prayers. Please pray for him.
Pearl Thigpen: Cancer results returned negative. We are thankful to our Lord!
Jo Lichtenburg: Passed away recently. Let's remember her family in our prayers.
Vance Herrin: Recovering from Covid-19 and is feeling much better. Thankful for our prayers.
Levi Washington: Young man (teen) passed away recently. His family will appreciate our prayers.
Jane Claire Forte: Traveling in Paris, France. Please pray for her safe travels and return.
There will be a baby shower today for **Christy Masseur** during/immediately after our fellowship meal. All are invited!
A combination **Men's Breakfast & Men's Meeting** scheduled for July 9th Breakfast begins at 8:00 AM

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	Gayle Williams	Norma Jean Hart	Elsie Ashcraft
Liz Logan	Ali Williams	Daniel Lance	Mary McDaniel
Kimi Atkins	Charlie Tanner	Judy Hinton	Heath Smith
Dana Kelly	Cindy Stevens	Keiundra Huddleston	Earl Kenney

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

Rightly Dividing the Word

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

Song of Solomon: This poetic book exalts the beauty of physical attraction and desire between a young shepherd (Solomon) and a Shunamite maiden. The beauty of physical intimacy of husband and wife for each other originated with God. Song of Solomon clearly illustrates that this kind of love is not inherently sinful or "dirty" but is, instead, to be enjoyed on many levels within the marriage bond (cf. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:2).

This week's memory verse:

"Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised."

(Song 8:7, NKJV)



Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth. ~ 2 Timothy 2:15