

Vancleave Church of Christ Weekly Newsletter

Dedicated to spiritual encouragement and local Christian ministry

June 26, 2022

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 2:11

Is Christianity Useless Because of Sin? by Duane Patton

Those professing faith in Christ will sometimes encounter criticism from others regarding such faith. When talking to those critics who observe the misbehaviors of some who claim to belong to the Lord, one might hear something like this: “Oh, that’s real ‘Christian-like’ isn’t it?” This seems to be a back-handed insult to the faith itself, as though the inconsistencies or weaknesses of those who claim allegiance to Jesus constitute solid evidence that the Christian faith is inconsistent or weak and, therefore, useless. But, is this the right conclusion to be drawn? Do the apparent contradictions of one’s own self-proclaimed dedication to Jesus Christ negate the authenticity and power of Christianity? Do occasional weaknesses of faith displayed by professed followers of Jesus provide proof that Christianity is useless? Take a moment and consider the following.

First, not everyone who professes faith in Jesus is a genuine follower of Him. Jesus said as much as recorded in Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (NKJV). He later asked, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (**Luke 6:46**). Sometimes when Christianity is misrepresented, it is done so by those who claim to be Jesus’ followers, but who, in their deeds, deny Him (**Titus 1:16**; cf. **2 Timothy 3:1-5**). So then, Christianity is not useless due to those who say they have faith but don’t show it (viz. **James 1:22**).

Second, all who possess faith are further called upon by God to be faithful, yet they sometimes falter. Those who genuinely belong to the Lord have responded to His grace as expressed by their obedient faith in Christ (**Romans 1:16, 17; 6:17; Hebrews 5:8-9**; etc.). While sin is something to be avoided by all whose faith is in Christ (**Romans 12:9; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Peter 1:13-21; 1 John 2:1**), misrepresenting the Gospel system of faith is possible. Therefore, each one must give an account of himself to God (**Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10f**). This explains why the faithful still need a Savior! Faltering in faith may weaken the follower of Christ, but such a weakness only magnifies the sinless, saving perfection of Christ and our reliance on Him!

Christianity – the one true system of faith ordained by God – is not hurt by others failing to embrace it or else acting beneath its high standards of holiness. A failure to reflect the will of God in life merely demands that we recognize our weaknesses, realign ourselves with God’s Word as revealed by His Spirit, and to remember the sinless Savior who alone is the author and finisher of faith (**Hebrews 12:1-2**). Christianity: very useful, indeed!

Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

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

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Local Wi-Fi Network Access: SSID: 2Wire029 Key: 3995723302

Recent Prayer Requests & Announcements



David Robinson: Please continue to pray for David at this time.

Christy Masseur: Nearing her time to deliver her baby. Please keep the Masseur family in prayers.

Cindy Stevens: Diagnosed with COVID. She plans to move to Indiana to live near her mother.

Ali Williams (via Deb Searcy/Lanette): Requesting prayers for healing after brain surgery.

Daniel Lance (Nephew of Lanette's friend, Gail) is requesting our special prayers.

Ira Lassiter (Lanette's cousin's husband) passed away recently. Prayers are requested for Cynthia.

Linda Kenney: Hospitalized recently with extreme low blood pressure. She is at Ocean Springs.

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
Linda Kenney	Earl Kenney	Keiundra Huddleston	Liz Logan
Kimi Atkins	Charlie Tanner	Judy Hinton	Mary Alice Kenney
Heath Smith	Pearl Thigpen	Dana Kelly	Mary McDaniel
Jo Lichtenburg			

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

Ecclesiastes: This book relates King Solomon's search for life's meaning without pursuing it in view of God's will. After seeking life's meaning through materialism, physical pleasure and a multitude of passions, the King finally admits that living on earth while leaving God out of one's plans amounts to a life of wasted and worthless struggle. What makes life worth living at all (the thing that makes one a well-rounded person) is to serve God from the heart - to fear God and keep His commandments (**12:13**). This is the only way to find life's true meaning.

This week's memory verse:

"Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

(Ecclesiastes 8:12, 13, KJV)



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