

Vancleave Church of Christ

Prayer Requests and Announcements

1 January 2023

Sermon Title: A New Testament Church

Scripture: Acts 9:31

PRAYER REQUEST

Linda Kenney: At Greenbriar Rehab Facility. Doing well, but longing for home.

Earl Kenney: Not doing so well, and has not been able to get out much. He has asked for our prayers.

Roman Holmes: Brother Roman is to follow up with his doctor; our prayers are welcomed.

Jerry Mobley: Has been released from the hospital and appreciates our continued prayers.

Nick Wages: Continues to improve after having back surgery.

Mike Kenney: Final skin graft scheduled for January 4. Able to move his arm, wrist and fingers better.

Ongoing Prayers

Susan Flurry	Mike Kenney	Ingelise Myrick	Naomi Waitrous
Maxine Robinson	Pete Hankins	Sue Watley	Frieda Wilson
Darlene Hannah	Ashley McGriff	Darrell McCormick	Charlotte Rashun
Paul Myrick	Gerardo Ranario	Dot Catchot	Heath Smith
Mike Inabinette	Virginia Dickerson	Jesse & Sharon Owens	Raymond Page
Earl and Linda Kenney	Frank Sentelle		

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

Some things improve with age, but Jesus, the "Rock of Ages" is absolutely perfect forever!

"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of
Your hands. They will perish, but You remain"

(Hebrews 1:10, 11a, NKJV)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER

- Men's Breakfast, January 14th here at the building.
- Gospel Meeting, February 5-7, 2023. David Looney will be our special guest speaker.
- No fellowship meal today, evening services for today are also cancelled. Have Safe and Happy New Year!

"In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old
is ready to vanish away."

(Hebrews 8:13, KJV)

Suggestions for Bible Reading

By Allen Webster, via House to House

To best interpret the Bible, read sections instead of randomly-selected verses. A chapter (26 verses on average) is a good rule of thumb, but remember that chapter and verse divisions are not inspired and therefore are not always reliable boundary guides. For instance, Matthew 24–25 records a single sermon Jesus preached (the Olivet Discourse) and should be read together.

Find the flow of thought. Look for key facts. Who wrote, when, under what conditions, regarding what theme, for what purpose? Use Rudyard Kipling's six basic questions to analyze a passage. He wrote in *The Elephant's Child*,

I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why And When
And How and Where and Who.¹

Look for key terms. For example, Matthew 6:25–34 repeats the idea of “taking thought” six times (kjv). The section thus relates to worry or anxiety. “Believe” is used 79 times in the 879 verses of the gospel according to John, or about once every eleven verses. If we are going to understand John, we must focus on faith (John 20:31).

Identify the speaker and the audience. The Bible contains many untrue statements—from false prophets, pagan kings, Job's friends, Roman authorities, Jewish leaders, and even Satan. They are correctly recorded but are not to be followed. If we fail to see who is addressed, we may apply things not intended for us.

Endnote

1 http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/poems_serving.htm.

A Note from your Preacher

This year (and every year) is a good year to get involved in a regular, private daily Bible reading. The sword of the Spirit that attracts our hearts to God and moves to action with God is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17)! Prayerfully, I will be soon be proposing a new daily reading program and would like to encourage all of us – including myself – to grow closer to the Lord and to one another this year by getting more acquainted with the Scriptures. Have a Happy New Year! ~ DP