

Vancleave Church of Christ

Prayer Requests and Announcements

March 5, 2023

Sermon Title: The Old Paths and The New Covenant

Scripture: Jeremiah 6:16

Elisa Hesselrode: She is waiting on some test results. Our prayers are most welcome.

Linda Kenney: She has returned home after a short stay in the hospital. Continue to pray.

Elsie Ashcraft: She has been having a difficult time with her equilibrium. Prayers are needed.

“Jack” (grandson of Clint Leblanc): He is a newborn in a serious condition and needs our prayers.

Suzette Saucier: She suffers from conditions related to congestive heart failure, but has returned home.

Theresa Blackmon: She suffers from a recent, serious automobile accident. Our prayers are needed.

Bren Pavlovich: She returned home from her recent hospitalization. Let’s keep Bren in our prayers.

Lanette Girod’s cousin’s grandson, David had neck surgery recently. He needs our prayers.

Ongoing Prayers (Please see earlier Prayer Requests for details) **Please be sure to update at:**
vcocministry@vancleavemchurch.org

Lisa Jenkins	Tara Forte	Linda Kenney	Don Boone
David Robinson	Mike Inabinette	Ingelise Myrick	Naomi Waitrous
Rick Bedwell	Murray Davidson	Susan Flurry	Frank Sentelle
Maxine Robinson	Pete Hankins	Frieda Wilson	Darlene Hannah
Paul Myrick	Ashley McGriff	Darrell McCormick	Charlotte Rashun
Zenie George	Gerardo Ranario	Dot Catchot	Sue Whatley
Andi Barrett	Virginia Dickerson	Sandra Roberson	Gary Mitchell
Mike Kenney	David Bosarge	Heath Smith	Jesse & Sharon Owens

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

“Sticks and stones” might break our bones, but the Word of God can save us!

“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

(John 8:51, NKJV)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER

- Today is the first Sunday in March, 2023. We plan to enjoy a fellowship meal immediately after morning services. There will be a brief devotional and we will dismiss evening services.
- There will be a wedding shower for **Brennen and Maci Perry** today. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.
- Next Sunday (March 12th) begins daylight savings time. The clocks will be advanced by one hour beginning at 2:00 AM on that day.

“All that you do must be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14)

The following article is a portion of a larger article written by Eric Lyons, M.Min. The source is from the monthly journal, Reason and Revelation, dated June 2021 and was originally published by Apologetics Press™ (<https://apologeticspress.org>) Due to space here, this will be the first of three in a series ~ DP

3 Things We Can Learn From Atheists

God's people have always been in the learning business. While "fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7), "the heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge" (Proverbs 18:15). Christians are primarily interested in learning from God, His Word (Psalm 119), and from those who imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). However, we can also learn some valuable lessons from unbelievers,¹ including those who contend an all-powerful, all-knowing Creator God does not exist.

#1—Atheists Rightly Point Out How Unloving and Cowardly Christians Are Who Do Not Evangelize
Penn Jillette is a famous comedian, actor, and entertainer, as well as a very outspoken atheist. In 2010, he made a five-minute personal video about a kind gentleman who handed him a Bible after one of his shows. Jillette said: "I believe he knew that I was an atheist. But he was not defensive and he looked me right in the eyes.... He was really kind, and nice, and sane...and talked to me and then gave me this Bible."²

Although many (perhaps most) atheists do not want to be approached with the Gospel, Jillette went on to say:

I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there is a Heaven and a Hell, and people could be going to Hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward...how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?³

The fact is, Jillette was simply using logic in drawing this conclusion: If Christians believe what they say they believe about eternal life and eternal death (Matthew 25:46), then they will teach the Gospel to others in a kind, loving, Christ-like manner.⁴

Notes

¹ Recall how Jesus told the parable of the unjust steward in hopes of His hearers learning an important lesson (Luke 16:1-8)—seemingly that if an unrighteous man is willing to take drastic measures to prepare for his physical future, how much more should the righteous be willing to do in preparation for eternity?

² Penn Jillette (2010), "A Gift of a Bible," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6md638smQd8>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ After all, Jesus' main purpose was "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). Jesus sent His apostles out with this same commission (Mark 16:15-16), and the early Church "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Evangelizing is simply the natural response to having Christ-like, *agape* love for mankind.

A Note from Your Preacher: *Professing faith in Christ is not a once in a lifetime event, but a life time of change where our personal lives align more and more with the life of Jesus in thought, word and deed. Let the word of God encourage you to grow closer to the one whom you have professed faith in! - DP*