

# Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: TBA

Scripture: TBA

## Prayer Requests and Announcements

April 16, 2023

**Jerry Mobley:** Surgery cancelled. Sciatica problem to be relieved with shots and therapy.

**Rylie Trussel:** To receive antibiotics for ten days after being hospitalized (4 week old child).

**Lisa Hesselrode:** She is scheduled to have surgery April 27<sup>th</sup> Prayers are most welcomed.

**Elise Ashcraft:** Requesting prayers for strength as she is dealing with balance issues.

**Dempe McVey:** Passed away recently. His funeral service was yesterday. Prayers requested for family.

### Ongoing Prayers

*Please be sure to update at: [vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org](mailto:vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org)*

Jackie Roach	Maxie Dodson, Jr.	Cheryl Solla	Sue Flurry
David Bosarge	Heath Smith	Zenie George	David Robinson
Tara Forte	Anita Dees	Rick Bedwell	Pete Hankins
Andi Barrett	Lisa Jenkins	Earl Kenney	Linda Kenney
Barbara Patton	Traci Herrin		

### **A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead**

We serve the King of glory in an upside down kingdom where in order to rise we must first kneel.

“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

### **Announcements / Other:**

- The elders have provided \$500.00 in further assistance to displaced victims of the recent storms in north Mississippi sending aid to help lay the foundation of a new home for one family in the area. This is being accomplished by Joseph Dawsey Disaster Relief out of Pearlinton, MS. His work is being overseen by College church of Christ, Searcy, AR. Thank you, Vancleave church!
- In brother Duane’s absence, we are blessed to have with us today Ron Webb, an elder and evangelist working with the church in Pascagoula! Thank you brother for your great support and faith! Thank you also, brother Robin Lyons for your sacrificial help with our adult Bible class.
- Please see fliers on table for various, special upcoming local area church events.

Our Local Mailing Address:

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For Wi-Fi connection Network: 2Wire029\_2GETX

Password: 399572302

## Four Truths about Rules

**Christians are not subject to man-made rules.** Paul warned against commandments of men such as, “Do not touch . . . taste . . . handle” (Colossians 2:21–22). Such rules, he said, “have an appearance of wisdom” in man-made religion but are of no value in restraining fleshly indulgence (2:23). Jesus rebuked those who were “teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9). He never violated a commandment of God, but He almost seemed to go out of His way to demonstrate His refusal to keep the “tradition of the elders” (Matthew 12:1–9; 15:2). Those who bind man-made rules on the church claim authority that belongs only to God. Those who submit to them as essential to salvation, at least in some instances, doubt the sufficiency of the gospel to save, and fall from grace (Galatians 5:4).

**Rules are not the essence of Christianity.** Christ is the essence of Christianity. The gospel is good news. God loves us and gave His Son for us. Christ paid the penalty for sin, which we had no ability to pay. This is the essence of Christianity and makes the gospel.

**Rules are not the basis of our salvation.** To be saved on the basis of keeping rules, it is necessary never to break a rule. When we break a rule of God, we become sinners. A sinner must be forgiven to be saved, and only God can forgive. We can neither formulate rules that would earn our forgiveness, nor earn our forgiveness by keeping rules God has given. Even if we kept all other rules, or kept the rule we broke at all other times, we would but keep ourselves from further sin, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). Keeping rules today would earn no credit to atone for previous sins. There are conditions given by God that we must meet to be forgiven, but meeting conditions is not the same as keeping all the rules. When we meet the Lord’s conditions because we trust the One who gave them, we are saved by grace through faith. If we think we are saved because we have kept all the rules, we trust ourselves and our own efforts, and we are condemned by our failure to fully comply, for “there is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10).

**God has rules, and they must be kept.** “The royal law” contains rules: “Do not commit adultery . . . Do not murder” (James 2:8–11). They are not arbitrary rules. They are given for our benefit by One who both knows and wants what is best for us, but they are rules. Persistently willful transgressors are condemned, not justified. He who breaks God’s rules is broken by them. They are not transgressed with impunity.

**Adapted, Cecil May, Jr. via House to House Heart to Heart**

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“Let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.” (Philippians 3:16 NKJV).

### A Note from your Preacher:

While not giving a blanket endorsement to all that is in it, I have hope that the above article can help clear up some oft-misguided thoughts among some who may falsely accuse the Lord’s people of being “legalists” - DP