

Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: Courage

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-12

Prayer Requests and Announcements

July 30, 2023

Susan Flurry: She is again taking chemo to help combat cancer. Let's be sure to pray for Susan.

Timmy Barton: He has been diagnosed with cancer; he and his family need our prayers.

Carla Wages: She has fallen recently and may require medical attention.

Earl Kenney: He is now on hospice care; he fell again Monday and is still having problems with tremors.

Rita Newburn: She is still having medical issues and was taken to the ER recently.

Berkley Smith: She is dealing with a number of health matters and needs our prayers.

Elsie Ashcraft: She continues to struggle with balance issues and appreciates our prayers for her.

Ongoing Prayers

Please be sure to update at: vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org

Bonnie Halcome	Grady Weston	Terry Thornton	Judy Stutts
Blake Mullings	Charlie Tanner	Pete Hankins	Rick Bedwell
Malory Glenn	Earl Kenney	Linda Kenney	Larry Ishee
Roger Hammond	Lisa Jenkins	Tara Forte	Anita Dees
Jackie Roach	Gregory Cooley	Frank Sentelle	Cheryl Solla
Keondra Huddleston	Teresa Blackmon	Scott Mcollough	Tommy Webb
Zenie George			

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

Ultimately, for the worldly person, success is not permanent; fortunately, for the godly, failure is not permanent.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”

(1 Corinthians 15:58, KJV)

Announcements / Other:

- FOOD PANTRY: Thank you to all who've donated pantry items of PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, CEREAL AND BOXED MILK. All donations are appreciated.
- School is now back in session. Let us be mindful of students, teachers and others this school year as well as our college students who are traveling from time to time.

Our Local Mailing Address:

11101 Highway 57, Vancleave, MS 39565

Phone: 228-826-4949 / email: vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org Website URL: www.vancleavemschurch.org

For Wi-Fi connection Network: 2Wire029

Password: 399572302

How Quickly the Gate Opens

By Bob Plunket via Pulaski Street church of Christ Lawrenceburg, TN
Bulletin Digest (May 2011)

An old farmer from the country went to the big city hospital to visit a dear friend. He was told he would have to park in the parking lot. He was so surprised when he drove up to the entrance and the little gate lifted immediately. He drove right in and parked his car in the shade. He made his visit and got in his car and drove to the exit, but the little gate didn't open. It took money to get out. He mumbled to himself as he drove away, "Maybe they changed the oil and rotated my tires while I was there."

What happened in that parking lot is also true of sin. It is so easy to get in and so hard to get out. Habits are so easy to start and so difficult to break. Satan's message has always been, "You can get in now and pay me later!" Not only does he get it later, but with the highest interest.

It reminds me of how quickly the gate opened for David's sin with Bathsheba. He saw her beauty. He sent for her. She came. He lay with her. Then he sent her home thinking all was well. It would cost him dearly to get out of this "parking place." She was with child from that little fun night. David then had to commit more sin to cover his tracks. He had Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed. David and Bathsheba would lose the child of this conception, and had to endure the shame and suffering that came from this sin.

Young people, how quickly the gate opens for the first cigarette or that chew of tobacco, that first beer, or that first act of sexual immorality, but it could cost an arm and a leg or a heart and lungs. You could end up paying the maximum cost — your life and your soul.

Let us not be deceived into thinking that, because there is no price at the entrance, there will be no price at the exit. We need to pay attention to Paul's words to the Galatians in Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. For he that sows unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. He that sows to the spirit shall of the spirit reap eternal life."

A Note from Your Preacher

I've heard that we ought to form our habits first or else our habit will eventually form us. This seems very true. The "scary" part is that when our habits form us, we generally don't even realize it. We become accustomed to doing good or evil unconsciously when we fail to form our habits. Maybe this is why Paul wrote, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* The habit of living the Christian life, now there's a good habit to be formed! - DP