

# Vancleave Church of Christ

**Sermon Title:** The Christian Armor

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-12

## Prayer Requests and Announcements

September 10, 2023

**Frank Sentelle:** He is clear to have back surgery and is being scheduled for the surgery soon.

**Helen Siebel:** At 83, she is awaiting surgery for long-term issue, surgery delayed due to infection.

### Ongoing Prayer Requests

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

Mary Stipler	Jeff Jellum	Edwina White	Susan Flurry
Becky Tarvin	Earl Kenney	Linda Kenney	Tommy Webb
Terry Thornton	Larry Ishee	Cheryl Solla	Timmy Barton
Bonnie Halcome	Grady Weston	Judy Stutts	Rita Newburn
Berkley Smith	Scott Mcollough	Pete Hankins	Rick Bedwell
Wayne Girod	Lanette Girod		

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

When waking through the valley of the shadow of death, be sure to hold on to the Light of Life

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4)

### **Announcements / Other:**

- *Meridian Street Church of Christ* is hosting a Gospel Meeting **September 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**, please see flier on Front Foyer Table for service times.
- *East Side Church of Christ* is also hosting a gospel Meeting **September 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**, please see flier on Front Foyer Table for service times.
- We are planning, with God’s blessing, to host a **Gospel Meeting** with Brother David Looney **October 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please pray for this event, spread the word and, if possible be in attendance! This year’s theme: “Security in The Storms of Life.” See the flier on the foyer for more details!
- Please continue to pray for and support our mission works in Guyana, India, and Guam as well as the good works at Gulf Coast Bible Camp.
- New **Food Pantry** items needed: **Instant Grits, Instant Oatmeal, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup.**

### **Our Local Mailing Address:**

11101 Highway 57, Vancleave, MS 39565

Phone: 228-826-4949 / email: [vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org](mailto:vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org)

Website URL: [www.vancleavechurch.org](http://www.vancleavechurch.org)

**Wi-Fi connection Network:** 2Wire029

**Password:** 399572302

# Have You Earned Your Place In Heaven?

*By Steve Higginbotham*

Calvert City Church of Christ, Calvert City, KY

**A**fter making a whopping \$50 million donation to a gun control initiative, and because of his work against obesity and smoking, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was quoted as saying: "I am telling you, if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in...I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close."

How does that sound to you? Presumptuous? Arrogant? The very idea that Mr. Bloomberg could think he could "buy" his way into heaven must be offensive to God. How less offensive is it when we believe and act like we can earn our way into heaven by:

- Going to church three times a week.
- Reading our Bibles daily.
- Giving generously each first day of the week.
- Helping the poor.
- Being a good father/ mother/husband/wife/son/daughter.

The above list could go on and on. Do we, along with Mr. Bloomberg need to be reminded that after all we could possibly do, we are still unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10)? Do we also need to be reminded that our righteousness, the best we can offer, is as filthy rags to God (Isaiah 64:6)?

You see, heaven isn't a matter of attainment, it's a matter of atonement. If we're in heaven some day, it won't be because we earned it. It Won't be because we wowed God with our own morality and righteousness. And it won't be because God's indebted to us. On the contrary, it will be because we're indebted to him!

## A Note from Your Preacher

Certainly, if anyone goes to Heaven it is because of the grace of God mixed with one's sincere faith in Christ. Let no one say with any confidence of those who have such a faith that he / she earned it from the Lord by performing works derived from human wisdom, but by the righteousness of Christ in conjunction with works of faith which God has revealed to us and so ordained for us so that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10; 4:1ff; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 John 2:3-6; Revelation 2:10; cf. James 2:21-23).