

Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: Should We Change?

Scripture: Malachi 3:6, 7

Prayer Requests and Announcements

October 1, 2023

Jack Hudson: He is having trouble keeping his milk down. Please pray for God's providence.

Frank Sentelle: Surgery delayed; doctors trying to determine if he needs a pace-maker.

Wayne Girod: He has been suffering with back issues and needs our prayers.

Anne Lang: She passed away recently and was a member of the church in Pascagoula.

Kathy Cooper: Mother of a friend of Trisha Lyons; Her cancer has returned, and it is stage 4.

Sheryl Ownesby: She is to have a pacemaker installed sometime soon.

Jerry Mobley: He also suffers with some back issues. Please remember brother Mobley in prayer.

Charles McDaniel: He is dealing with some personal health issues and needs our prayers.

Mariah Lambess: Her cancer has returned, and she is in need of our prayers.

Nic Wages: He currently suffers with some physical pain; let's earnestly pray for his health.

Jeffrey Gillot: His step-son recently passed away. Please pray for Jeffrey and his family for strength.

Carla Clayton: She got injured in an auto wreck last week. She is in some pain. Please pray for her.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Please be sure to give an update on these at: vcocministry@vancleavechurch.org

Pamela Maxwell	Maci Perry	Denise Kilcrease	Terry Kiekhafer
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	Helen Siebel	Frank Sentelle

An Encouraging Word for the Week Ahead

God's Grace is Greater Than All Our Sin

"Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Romans 5:20b)

Announcements / Other:

- **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** is moved to October 15th (first day of our Gospel Meeting). We will plan to meet for regular services this evening.
- **We are pleased to announce that David Robinson has again accepted the role of an elder here at Vancleave! We pray for his continued health and wisdom and look forward to serving under his spiritual leadership.**
- We plan to host a **Gospel Meeting, October 15th – 17th**. Brother David Looney will speak. 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 table 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.
- 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

Website URL: www.vancleavechurch.org

Let Go of The Past

By Larry Pasley (Via Bulletin Digest), adapted

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mister, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!" The passenger apologized and said he didn't realize that a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

The cabbie allowed his past experiences to cause him to take his eye off of the road and his goal of getting his passenger to his destination.

Sometimes we allow our past to affect our present and future goals and destinations also. The apostle Paul told the Philippian brethren: "Not that have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14).

- When we find our past affecting our lives in a negative way, we need to learn how to forget those things.
- We especially need to forget those things which keep us from focusing on our goal of heaven.
- When we have people in our lives who are causing us to take our eyes off of our goal of heaven, we need to forget them.
- When our guilt from former sins, which have been forgiven, causes us to take our eyes off of our goal of heaven, we need to forget them.
- When temptations to sin lead us astray from our goal of heaven, we need to forget them.
- We need not to allow anything in our past to take our focus off of heaven.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4).