

Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: Can You Trust God with the Details of Your Life?

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4

Prayer Requests and Announcements

October 15, 2023

Jayne Murphy: She has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Kathy Cooper: She also has been diagnosed with breast cancer, stage four.

Linda Kenney: She was admitted to hospital with low blood pressure and severely swollen legs.

Jerry Mobley: His back “went out” recently, severely affecting his mobility.

Maci Perry: She is to have surgery on November 1st to help correct some kidney related issues.

Randy Griffin: He recently passed away. Randy, of Mountain Home, AR, was cousin to Wayne Girod.

Kristina Myers: She has a good Oncology report but is to have 6 more months of chemo treatment.

Rosemary McNeil: She recently passed away. Rosemary was a cousin of Karen Hudson.

Gene Lizana: He was killed in a recent car wreck. Gene was a cousin of Carolyn Hart.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

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

Kathy Cooper	Terry Kiekhafer	Sheryly Owensby	Jerry Mobley
Charles McDaniel	Mariah Lambes	Nic Wages	Frank Sentelle
Mary Stipler	Jeff Jellum	Susan Flurry	Rick Bedwell
Becky Tarvin	Earl Kenney	Linda Kenney	Tommy Webb
Terry Thornton	Larry Ishee	Cheryl Solla	Timmy Barton
Bonnie Halcome	Grady Weston	Judy Stutts	Pete Hankins
Berkley Smith	Scott Mcollough	Lanette Girod	Wayne Girod

An Encouraging Word for the Week Ahead

Jesus is the “Prince of Peace.” Imagine a world where people submit to His leadership!
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and
be ye thankful (Colossians 3:15 KJV)

Announcements / Other:

- Our Gospel Meeting, October 15th – 17th begins today with Brother David Looney from Jackson, TN This year’s theme: “Security For The Storms of Life.” See the flier on the foyer table for more details!
- We will have a Fellowship Meal today immediately after morning services. Evening services are 6 PM as we continue with the Gospel meeting.
- 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:

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Are We Ready?

By Duane Patton

The idea of being ready is one that fills our daily lives. Putting off until tomorrow what we know we ought to do today is known as procrastination, yet somehow such a delayed action makes it to the top of our “to-do list” more often than many of us might care to admit. Possibly worse still is the all-too-easy criticism of our personal assessment of why others haven’t already done X or Y - we seem ever ready for others to do what we consider urgent far more than what we ourselves might do in the same or similar circumstances. However, there are some matters of eminence in which we should all be ready. Here are a few of them:

- I. **We should be ready to recognize the God of the Bible as our Creator, Sustainer and Savior:** Moses informs us in the first book of the Bible that our world and everything good and perfect in it did not always exist, neither did it create itself. Rather, it began to exist when something timeless, spaceless, immaterial, all powerful, all-good and all-knowing spoke it into existence. That “something” Scripture identifies as God (**Genesis 1:1-2**; cf., **Jas. 1:17**; **Hebrews 1:1-3**; **1 Tim. 2:3**; **Titus 2:13**). A failure to be ready in this matter turns out to be success in things that are bound to fail.
- II. **We should be ready to turn away from sinful living, and to embrace a life of love, joy and peace:** Looking back on human history one can soon learn of the grievous effects of sin. The first recorded human act of rebellion to God’s will resulted in mankind’s expulsion from paradise, thrusting mankind into a hostile world filled with difficulties, disease and, ultimately, physical death (see **Genesis Ch. 3**; cf., **2:15-17**; **Rom. 5:12**). Yet, a change of mind regarding sin is something that leads us back to the life-giving source of goodness missing in the hearts of many people today (**Luke 15:11-32**). If we are not ready to refuse sinful living, our souls will remain at war with God.
- III. **We should be ready to meet the Lord when He returns and to hear Him say to us “Well done!”:** The hope of every believer is that this world is not all there is. We are among those who invest in heavenly rewards and not merely earthly treasures (**Matthew 6:19-22**; **1 Peter 1:3-5ff**). Part of what makes life both tolerable and enjoyable is the promise of a new heavens and a new earth, a place where we will always be with the Lord, a very comforting thought to be sure (**1 Peter 1:13**; **2 Peter 3:13**; viz. **1 Thess. 4:17,18**)! Instead of waiting on things to get better on earth, we ought to prepare now for the heavenly homeland that is “not of this world” (**Hebrews 11:13-15**; **John 8:23**; **18:36**; **2 Cor. 4:16-5:1**; cf., **Rom. 8:18f**).

There are many things in life we should stop putting off – things that are truly important to the progress and success of our lives. But, let us always be ready to love the Lord, His people and the cause for which Jesus Christ died and rose again. Regarding eternal life, are we ready?

A Note from your Preacher

Thank you all who have made preparation for our Gospel meeting this week! I believe we are quite ready to glorify God together and to be encouraged even in the storms of this life. - DP