

# The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

July 2021

## How Can I Be a Patriotic Christian?

This country is not a theocracy, nor has it ever been a theocracy, nor was it meant to be a theocracy. Yet this country WAS built on biblical principles. Our founders were mostly Christians who instilled Christian ideals into our founding documents.

So should a Christian be patriotic, and if so, how can I balance love of country with love of Jesus?

I believe we can love our country as long as the love of Jesus always comes first. When Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's," he was establishing that government is NOT God (Caesar was considered a god). God always comes first.

I don't think the United States is found anywhere in prophecy, nor is this nation essential in God's final plan of restoring a new heaven and earth. Our blessing as a nation depends on our obedience.

I believe the United States is the freest country in the history of the world. However, I don't believe that makes the U.S. God's favorite place or the new Promised Land. Our blessing as a nation depends on our obedience as a nation.

I believe God has blessed the United States and that she has prospered as a nation because we were a nation that honored the God of the Bible. As this nation drifts further from biblical truth, we can expect God to withdraw his hand of protection from us.

So, is it biblical to have patriotic feelings toward our home country? The Jewish nation certainly had patriotic feelings toward Israel. The Bible teaches us we should pray and seek the well-being of whatever nation we live in.

**Psalm 122:6-9 (ESV)** *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!" For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!" For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.*

**Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)** *But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

A true Christian who is a patriot, for whatever nation they are a citizen of, will show love for their country by first praying that it is a nation that follows God [again, not a theocracy].

When our country strays from God's word, we don't blindly follow those who lead away from God. If we truly love our country, we will pray for our leaders to be saved and have godly wisdom as they lead. We will pray for revival and a return to the Lord as a nation, for that is where we will find our greatest blessing. **Psalm 33:12 (ESV)** *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!*

A Christian patriot will pray 2 Chronicles for his/her nation. **2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)** *If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

We need to be humble. We aren't great just because we are Americans. Our greatness comes from the God who has blessed us. When we think we are wiser or better than God, our pride will cause us to fall.

We need to pray and seek God's face. This nation has been relying on man's wisdom for far too long. That has caused us to become more divided, not united. We have called good evil and evil good. We don't even know the difference between men and women anymore!

So in seeking God's face, we will seek his will and repent from the evils that many in this nation think are OK.

That means we turn from our wicked ways. When we do that, God will heal our land. Isn't it patriotic for Christians to want what is best for our nation? What is best for our neighbor is if the land he lives in is blessed by God, is filled with peace and prosperity, and follows the righteousness of God.

You can love America. Just don't let her become an idol and make sure you love God more! Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Mike



Jeff Mulpas will be here. He will share about Alpha Christian Children's Home during Sunday school and will preach during the worship service.



Mike will be gone July 9th-16th. If anyone has needs, please contact Jay Welborn or Stan Farr.



There will be a Board Meeting, Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM.



July 18th is an all church pool party. 7-8 pm at the city pool. There will have a sign up sheet to try to get a ballpark figure for the number going.

**Men's Breakfast:** The men's breakfast will be Saturday, July 10th, 8:00 AM. Kevin Gatzemeyer is cooking.

**Pocket Change for Progress:** Please continue saving your pocket change for VFCC youth programs and School Supply Project. There is a bucket for your change anytime, not just the third Sunday.

**Past sermons are available online at [www.valleyfallsc.org](http://www.valleyfallsc.org).** If you cannot access them this way, you may ask Pastor Mike for a cd copy.

**On line sermon opportunity:** For those sheltering at home, church service will be available to live stream on YouTube (and Facebook). Also available on YouTube, previous services.

Don't forget to subscribe to Valley Falls Christian Church YouTube channel



### Sermon Series, Scripture

July 4	Free Indeed John 8:31-38
July 11	Jeff Mulpas Guest Speaker
July 18	Love Your Enemies Luke 6:27-31
July 25	The Solid Rock Luke 6:46-49

July	Greeters	Scripture reader	Communion Devotion	Nursery
4	Flack	Flack	J Mitchell	Debbie/Abby
11	Gatzemeyer	Gatzemeyer	J Mitchell	Brittany/Dakota
18	Welborn	Welborn	J Mitchell	Aisha/Rhonda
25	Durand	Durand	J Mitchell	Tiffany/Aleyna

**July communion devotion and prayer: Jarret Mitchell**

**Prayer Requests:** Becky Arnold, Emma Dockweiler, Pat Petesch surgery recovery, Tabita McAfee fighting Covid, Donetta Farr bug bite

**OUR SOLDIERS:** Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza, Gary Flack, Dayton Flack

**Church Offerings:**

May 16 - \$ 516  
 May 23 - \$ 765  
 May 30 - \$ 550  
 June 06 - \$ 2470  
 June 13 - \$ 910

Gyve totals included in totals.

Gyve to VFCC online through our partnership with Gyve at: <https://gyve.io/give/valleyfallsc>

**July Birthdays & Anniversaries**

5 Laura Reich  
 8 Allene Mattox  
 10 Tiffany Spencer  
 11 PHIL & TABITA MCAFEE (1981)  
 19 Abby GrandPre  
 20 Aleyna GrandPre  
 22 Mike Kirby  
 Jacob Mitchell  
 24 Christy Arnold  
 25 Wade Boyce  
 28 Jade Thayer  
 31 CINDY SHEAD  
 (Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



19<sup>th</sup> Annual School Supply Giveaway  
 Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 8am-11am  
 Valley Falls Christian Church  
 511 Oak Street  
 Valley Falls, KS 66088

- Book bags and school supplies for grades Pre-K through 12
- Community information and resources
- No income requirements
- Available for students of all districts
- First come, first served

Check [valleyfallsc.org](http://valleyfallsc.org) for the most current info or  
 Contact Tiffany Spencer for details

Set up for the annual school give away is pending.....stay tuned for details.

# Valley Falls Christian Church

511 Oak Street  
Valley Falls, KS 66088

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Phone: 785-945-6757  
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org  
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org  
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

***You are welcome to join us!***

**Sunday Service times:**

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM

Worship – 10:00 AM

Youth Group (grades 7-12) – 5:00 PM

**Midweek: Bible Study-7:00 PM**

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
			1	3
4	5	7	8	10
No Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	4:30 PM – Worship prac		8 am Men’s Breakfast
11	12	14	15	17
No Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	4:30 PM – Worship prac		
18	19	21	22	24
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	4:30 PM – Worship prac		
25	26	28	29	31
5 PM Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	4:30 PM – Worship prac		