

Christmas Comes But Once A Year. Jesus Never Leaves!

Any Christian worth his salt will know that Christmas is a tradition of man. As such we should tread carefully as we involve ourselves with certain aspects of this special time of the year. Here are a few thoughts that can help us.

1. God has no commandment for Christians to observe anything only once a year.
In the Old Testament this was the case for major festivals such as Passover, which took place in the first month of the year (Numbers 9:5). Christians are not governed by the Old Testament, however. Jesus gave the command to observe the Lord's Supper, and through His apostles we learn that this was to be on the first day of the week, not the first month (Acts 20:7)
2. This world is mostly governed by impulses and ideas that come from man, not from God. This is true on any day of the year. In Romans 14:5, 6 Paul explains that as individuals we may keep certain days as special as long as we honor the LORD. So there is some personal latitude, but we cannot bind these things on others. That is why, for the church as a whole, Christmas has a low profile.
3. We are to be in this world but not of this world. How do we do that?
1 Corinthians 5:9, 10 tells us that we would have to leave the world if we wanted to isolate ourselves from all wrongdoing. Yet Paul, in this passage, does insist that we should isolate such wrongdoing if it occurs in the church. God does recognize that it can be hard to draw all the lines in the right places when we interact with the world, but the bottom line seems to be that we do not allow sin to find a home within the fellowship of the saints. That means we each have to think carefully and remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 7:31

...and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

December 13, 2015

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.



Today's Sermon: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

- Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.
- Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org**

Scripture: Psalm 85

Hymns: 1018 Joy To the World; **452** Standing On the Promises; **431** Break Thou the Bread of Life; **202** Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee; **996** O Little Town of Bethlehem

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class**, Tuesday, January 5th. Our new area of study will be the book of Esther. More information will be available soon.
- **Potluck Dinner**, Sunday, December 20th. Is there interest in a holiday party activity at this time? White elephant gifts? This is next Sunday, so let's decide today if we want to do this.
- **Kittanning Christians** will be arriving here at the building on Monday, the 21st to bring gifts for area families that they have collected. We are planning food for the gift boxes as well. We **need holiday cookies** to put in the boxes and we are planning on handing them out on that day. If any of you would like to be here to **greet the people** from Kittanning, help **pack the boxes** and/or help **distribute** them, please come!



- Remember the Sayre Senior Health Center **Adopt-a-Resident Program!** Keep in mind:

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (1 Timothy 6:18)

For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. (1 Peter 2:15)

PRAYERS...

- Kevan Barry left yesterday morning to fly overseas. He will be gone for a week. Please pray for his safety as well as for his crew.
- Darlene Elsbree has several bulging discs in her lower back. She is following a course of spinal decompression treatments. She also recently had a spot removed from her toe and has learned that it is non-cancerous.
- Tom Patrick was not here last week because he was in pain with a kidney stone. Last we knew he has still not managed to pass the stone, but is able to manage the pain.
- Linda Hicks needs to have a procedure done on her spine that allows her to self medicate for pain.
- Please pray for Sandy and Arthur's daughter Molly's husband, José, who has stopped fellowshiping with the church.
- Felicity Hicks needs to have her gall bladder removed.
- Daulton, the grandson of Darlene's friend Pat, is losing his battle with drugs. He is 21 years old and believed to be in the Athens area.
- Ben Wright, elder at the Kittanning church, recently had cataract surgery, which went well, but he is concerned about angina pain, which he has suffered since his heart attack, getting worse lately.
- Zachary Lunn, from the Endwell church, has been admitted to the behavioral science unit at the hospital here in Sayre. His family has requested prayers.

