

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6

If you live long enough in this world you will come to one unavoidable conclusion: it is a hard place to win approval for any length of time. Everywhere you look people are standing on their heads, metaphorically speaking, trying to get someone to notice and to say, "Good job! I wish I could do that." The trouble is that, once they have said that, they move on looking for something that is **really** worthwhile. They may be one step behind you or one step ahead of you, but we are all pretty much on the same track, following the same carrot. Standing on your head gets old, and jumping through hoops brings no satisfaction. Let's be honest, it's just plain foolish.

Do you really expect to gain satisfaction today? Is it actually possible to hit the mark? I mean THE MARK, not *a* mark that might help you get to THE MARK. I mean THE MARK that you only ever have to hit one time. Paul wrote to the church in Galatia because he could see a bunch of people standing on their heads, and some who liked to pull the strings that made other people stand on their heads. What fools we are sometimes – thinking that pulling the strings is hitting THE MARK. Paul refers to this foolishness in Galatians 3:3:

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

He tells them that they had hit THE MARK when they began with the Spirit, when they had simply trusted Jesus by being baptized into Him (Galatians 3:26-29). It was good enough for their salvation then, why not now? We expect the world to be caught up in foolishness, but not people of faith. Paul warns them that, if they want to go back to standing on their heads, they will have "fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:1-3).

Christians are people who have come to terms with their failure to hit the mark in this world. They no longer seek approval in this world because they know that THE MARK is Jesus. They seek to be at peace with all men, and they definitely are admonished to encourage and support one another, because these things please God and hit the mark. But they can no longer be caught up in the foolishness of pleasing men. Paul had learned that lesson (Galatians 1:10). When he saw Peter "standing on his head" in Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14) he publicly denounced his actions. We should remember that when anyone attempts to change the terms of salvation to suit their own desires, and people fall in line to please men, God expects us to pronounce the anathema upon them. (Galatians 1:6-11)

Are you standing on your head or falling on your face?



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

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

November 29, 2015

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.



Today's Sermon: Stand Firm and see the LORD's Salvation.

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

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org

Scripture: Psalm 84

Hymns: 570 A Beautiful Life; **461** Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide; **711** Blest Be The Tie That Binds; **490** It Is Well With My Soul; **399** Jesus Calls Us

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class**, Tuesday, December 1st or 8th (we have to discuss this). Sandy will lead the discussion about pages 173-176, the last lesson of our study book. We may be meeting on the 22nd to pack food boxes for Christmas if they don't get done on the previous Sunday during Potluck.
- **Potluck Dinner**, Sunday, December 20th.



- Sayre Senior Health Center has started a new program called **Adopt a Resident**. There is a poster on the bulletin board that tells all about it. Please read it and see if you would like to make someone's life better.
- We are in need of help with transportation to and from the building on Sundays. **Thank you** to those who have been helping out.
- **Regional Singing**, here at Valley Cities church, 4:30pm, **TODAY!** Soup, sandwiches, cookies and fellowship following.

PRAYERS...

- Herm Schiel is undergoing physical therapy for his wrist.
- Pray for Katie Grissies, the friend of Tiffany Cantrell from Prattville, AL, who had breast cancer while pregnant for her daughter. Katie had a healthy baby girl halfway through her chemo treatments, and had bilateral mastectomies last week. She is doing very well and is living by faith.
- Darlene Elsbree has several bulging discs in her lower back. She is following a course of spinal decompression treatments.
- 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.
- Darlene's Uncle, who is dealing with a terminal disease, has developed pneumonia.
- Pray for our church group here at Valley Cities. Help us to love and encourage each other with the love of the Lord.

