

## Perspective

by: A. Jay Kelly

"If you will return, O Israel, return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' then the nations will be blessed by him and in him they will glory." Jeremiah 4:1-2

By the time Jeremiah wrote, the nation of God consisted only of Judah. Israel - the northern kingdom - had been destroyed because of their apostasy about a century earlier by God through the Assyrians.

Judah was about to experience the same thing. Although Josiah was on the throne and he was arguably the best king in their history, their own apostasy was too far gone.

But, God was still there pleading for their return and not just out of concern for them. If they would return, He tells them, the nations would also be blessed.

That is a message for today. You see, we can get so tied up in the world and worldliness that we forget our purpose. We can even become like the Prodigal Son and forget we are the children of God.

If that happens, we can be assured of something else as well. God is still there, pleading and waiting like the prodigal's father. He has a ring, a robe and a feast waiting for our return.

Yes, there are consequences for sin. Judah was destroyed for theirs. There was a remnant, however, who did return and from whom came the Messiah.

God can do the same with us. Sin may hurt us physically and spiritually, but it cannot destroy us unless we refuse God's offer.

That's a message we all need to hear. It's also a message we need to tell.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

July 8, 2018

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30pm

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

ROMANS 16:16

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#### ***Today's Sermon: TBA (Ronnie Jones preaching)***

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

**[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org) (Antioch Initiative)**

Find us on Facebook

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**Scripture:** TBA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Out for the summer! Watch this space! We will resume in September.**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** July 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We are studying the book of Judges. Please note the later time.
- **Athens Street Fair:** July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be handing out tracts and Bibles. We will be promoting our upcoming VBS. Please plan on spending some time in our booth to help out.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing @ Ithaca, July 29<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm.**
- **VBS** with our Kittanning and Camp Hill brethren August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

Next Potluck: July 15<sup>th</sup>



- Please remember the fundraising bottles for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Fill them up with change and bring them in.
- Arthur and Sandy will be at Camp Hunt helping in the kitchen this week. Thanks to Brother Jones for stepping in to preach today.
- Ronnie Jones is looking for an apartment in Sayre while he is working in Troy so he can be close by to help us with the work at Valley Cities.

## PRAYERS...

- We pray that our **door-knocking/leafleting** campaign to introduce ourselves to the neighborhood **produces fruit and Bible studies. Lets all invite our friends and neighbors to study the Bible and attend worship.**
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer. Darlene visited with her last week and she is doing as well as can be expected.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** – lung cancer, recovery from brain tumor.
- Pray for Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** who has metastatic breast cancer. She has discontinued all medication except the chemo that is prolonging her life so she can spend more time with her two young boys.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- **Pray that Dave and Lynne Laton's daughter Natalie** will be able to recover from her cancer. She is thankful that her tumor has greatly reduced in size, but this last round of chemo has been very hard on her.
- Pray for our nation's **healing** and repentance.
- **Darlene** has had low energy and hair loss as well as symptoms of gastric reflux.
- Darlene and Doug are dealing with a sick pet dog, **Hachi**.
- **Emily Barry** is interviewing for a better paying job, and they are thankful that **Aidan** found a summer job.
- **Jenna Barry**, Arthur and Sandy's granddaughter from AK is in the Ukraine participating in the Let's Start Talking program.
- **Donald** has asked for prayers that he can find a new job and find spiritual direction in his life.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please