

Fear Is Not Always a Bad Thing

In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them. Esther 8:17

“We cannot pressure people.” “Don’t offend anyone.” “Just live a good life and people will be converted as a result.”

There is truth in all these statements, but there is also something lacking in all of them. Call it zeal or faith or commitment, but these statements could be made by any person to any other person without ruffling any feathers. The Lord’s command to His apostles was not “Go into the world and make disciples of all nations without ruffling any feathers”. The events that led up to the statement in Esther 8:17 were about as dramatic as any event in history. The birth of the church and the preaching of the gospel has been the ultimate adventure of all time. Christians are involved in nothing less than the rescue of earth’s population from Satan’s holocaust. Just like Mordecai, who refused to bow to the enemy, and Esther, who stood up for her people, we are called to live courageous lives by faith in Christ.

In Esther’s day God’s people were on the verge of extinction but look how the tables were changed! As a result of the courageous faith of one or two people the Jews went from being the fearful to the feared. This was a good fear, though, because many of those who feared the Jews became Jews! Fear is often beneficial because it restrains us from doing foolish or dangerous things. It is the normal response to the sight of an oncoming train when you are standing on the tracks. Nobody regrets that fear once they have dived off the track and escaped destruction. So it was with these people who converted out of fear. They saw the train coming and wanted to get out of the way. So it was, and is, with those who are baptized into Christ under the terms of the New Testament. They see God’s judgment coming and they want to take shelter immediately. Each living soul must be warned of the judgment to come, but who will warn them? How can we convince them without ruffling their feathers? There are basic facts we need to face:

1. Though the world wants to eliminate the truth of God and therefore His people (Romans 1:18-20), it is they who will be destroyed in the end.
2. God’s people will overcome the enemy.
3. When the world sees us overcoming Satan, the power of God will terrify them.
4. As a result, many will want to join us. That’s a good thing!



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
June 23, 2019

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today’s Sermon: Do You Keep Sabbath?

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)**

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** June 26th, Arthur will continue to teach our study of Galatians. Be there at 6:30 if you want to learn.
- **Sojourners** here- July 8-18. We are planning a Gospel tent meeting in River Front Park during this time (12-14). We have been soliciting some exciting Gospel music groups to edify the participants at the tent meeting.
- **Athens Street Fair-** July 19th & 20th. **Volunteers needed** to help with our church booth during this event. This will be our 3rd year to participate.
- **VBS –** August 10th here at the building with volunteers from Kittanning and Camp Hill churches. **We will need cookies, drinks and snacks! Volunteers to help the day go smoothly are always welcome.**
- **Next Potluck: July 21st.**



NEWS

- **Jackie** is convalescing at Sayre Care Center in room 302 for two or three weeks following her fall which resulted in a cut to the head and a fractured pelvis.
- **5th Sunday Regional Singing-** next Sunday, June 30th at Endwell @ 4:30pm.
- **The Sojourners will be here in two weeks. Let's all be ready for them!**
- Ted and Jennifer should be with us today after a week at the beach.
- Sandy and Arthur spent a few hours at the Endless Mountains Church of Christ booth yesterday at Tunkhannock Founders Day. We got some good ideas for our booth at the Athens Street Fair later in summer.
- We have been a bit back and forth about potluck this month, but if you can, please stay today following worship and have fellowship together as we enjoy a good meal.

PRAYERS

- Pray for **Jackie** to recover quickly from her fall and to be in minimum pain.
- Pray for **Sam** as he will be making the transition from Sayre to near Rochester later this summer.
- Pray for **Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor soon.
- Pray for **Marilynn Patrick** who is battling metastatic colon cancer. Also pray for her family.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer. Doctors have found additional spots on her lungs.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** –stage 4 lung cancer. She recently had her chemo port removed, which is encouraging.
- **Erin Beiber** - metastatic breast cancer.
- Remember to pray for **Ronnie Jones** (stroke) and **Don Myers** (back pain). They both need our prayers.
- Pray for our **Bible classes**, both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.
- Pray for success for the **Endless Mountains** church in Tunkhannock as they have their **VBS** June 25th.

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.