

## Having Faith in Confusing Times

Timothy E. Davis

"For my thoughts are higher than your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

Trust. It is a small word but an essential element for any successful relationship. We know that a relationship without trust has no chance of succeeding. A marriage cannot be successful when a trust has been broken. A friendship cannot last without trust. A child that does not trust his parents is likely to experience an extremely difficult childhood.

A trust is only as strong as the character of the person whom the trust has been bestowed upon. As mortals, we are extremely fallible. That is why human trust can be broken and lost so easily. Trust produces faith but faith requires trust. The two cannot stand alone. Faith asks us to follow directions and go into situations often lacking a clear understanding of why we are doing so. But we understand that their perspective and understanding of the situation is better and clearer than ours, and, based on past experiences, we know they have our best interests at heart and that what is occurring is occurring for our benefit.

Unlike trust we place in people, the trust we give to God will never be abused, broken, or lost. Human trust breaks because of our fallibility; His trust never breaks because He is infallible. The Father's character assures us that He has a plan to get us through any trial we may be facing and we know He loves us and, just like an earthly Father, only wants the best for His children.

Throughout history, men and women have wondered how a loving Master can put them into dangerous and confusing circumstances. The children of Israel could not understand why they had to wander the desert for 40 years. But The Great I Am had a plan! Abraham did not understand why His Father would ask him to slay Isaac. But He had a plan! Joseph could not understand why his own brothers sold him into slavery. But God had a plan! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could not understand why they were thrown into the fiery furnace. But they had faith and trust in the Creator and knew He had a plan. And finally, Jesus' disciples could not understand why He had to die on the cross. But Jehovah had an amazing plan!

There are times in every believers walk with Christ that we simply cannot understand what He is trying to do. But we must remember circumstances are a matter of perspective, ours and God's. Ours is earthly and is extremely limited in scope. Our Father's is eternal and is unlimited in scope. From His perspective in Heaven, Our Lord can look far into the future, an ability that we do not have. How, then, can we endure through those times of our lives? Like our toasty friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, trust in the Master and have faith in his eternal and unlimited perspective!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

August 16, 2020

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon:** *The Word of God*

Paul Cowles will deliver the sermon today.

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

**Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 3:15-4:8**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: August 19<sup>th</sup>**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. Last week we continued our study of Hosea.
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: TBA**



- Doug and **Lori Kashorek** attended their son, Tim's wedding, virtually, yesterday from Lori's hospital room, where she is being treated for lung cancer and brain tumors.
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ice Cream (at a distance) Social**, in our church parking lot on Friday was a lot of fun. We had a good turnout of Christians and a few visitors from the neighborhood.



- Paul will be preaching today.

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for all of us as businesses and schools open amidst the Covid-19 crisis.**
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer. She was scheduled for surgery on Thursday to remove another mass on her lungs and also a kidney stone, but we have no update on her current condition.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his esophageal cancer in the months to come. He should be having surgery this month.
- **Bill Dayton**, preacher in Kentucky is suffering from severe depression. Also, another Christian friend of the Barrys, **Steve Harrison**, who lives with his family in Viet Nam is suffering with dark depression.
- **Doug Kashorek has asked for prayers for himself and his wife Lori as they deal with her serious breakdown in health due to her struggle with lung cancer which caused tumors on her brain.**
- **Please pray about the Lord's Supper and how we can keep our faith and please God during this time of pandemic.**

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