

## Two Greatest Commandments

Arthur Barry

We can try as hard as we like to make it more complicated, but Jesus boiled it down to these two simple truths. It was very normal, when a rabbi was around, to hear lengthy, involved discussion on all sorts of religious issues. You remember how they loved to posit questions to Jesus about such things as divorce (Mark 10:2) and paying taxes (Mark 12:14) and even about resurrection (Mark 12:18-27). He must have felt that this question was a breath of fresh air:

Which is the greatest commandment? (Mark 12:28). Jesus answers with two:

1. *And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.* (Mark 12:29,30)
2. *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:31)

The questioner is not disappointed with this answer at all, and he joins Jesus in expounding on why these two commandments are so vital.

*"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."* (Mark 12:32, 33)

There is a positive and a negative expression of both commandments. The first commandment states that there is one God, and we are to love Him (positive). It also states that there is no other god, so by implication we should not love any other god (negative). The second commandment says we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (positive) and the negative expression is "all burnt offerings and sacrifices." These were not forbidden, but they were not to be given as much weight as loving one's neighbor. Offerings could be made to the wrong god(s) or to the one Lord. In either case the offering could be no more than a gesture. In the case of false gods, that is absolutely all a worshiper had to do. But with the one Lord, they were merely signs, or evidence, that there was a relationship between this worshiper and this God. This covenant relationship with the one Eternal Lord promises much more than any of the gods of our day, but He also asks more of us than just a token. Going to church, contributing, even singing and praying can be valid tokens to just about any god. The one Lord asks us to love one another. Check your relationship with God and make sure that it is not consisting mainly of mere tokens.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
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November 7, 2021

### 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: Unity.**

Paul is preaching today

**Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-10**

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Find us on Facebook:

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the building (or join us on Zoom), 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday):** November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> here at the building.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Chapter 3, Day 1.
- ❖ **Thanksgiving Meal-** Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, here at the building, 5pm. Served with love by our brethren from the Kittanning church!



- **Jerry Lowe** left for Nevada to be with his sons for the winter on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. His address while away will be c/o Gregg Lowe, 5538 W Duncan Dr, Las Vegas, NY 89130.
- **Last Sunday afternoon and evening the church at Horseheads hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing and Fellowship. All who attended were edified and encouraged. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday occurs on January 30<sup>th</sup> and the Ithaca church plans to host that event.**
- **The Thanksgiving meal** that our brothers and sisters from Kittanning serve to us is a chance for us to reach out to our Valley neighbors, especially in **Sayre, Athens and Waverly. Please plan to attend and invite guests!**

## PRAYERS

- We are thankful that **Jackie** has started on a medication that should make her more comfortable with her rheumatoid arthritis. Pray that it works and that **Darlene** and she may be able to meet with us in person soon.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's), **Steve and Amy's neighbor's sister, JoAnne** (cancer).
- **Pray for our MAGI box project.**
- **Arthur** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will have a bone scan on Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> to rule out metastasis and then he and his doctor will decide how to proceed. Please pray that there is no cancer in the bones.
- **Jo Pennington**, wife of GK who preached many years for the Endwell church, lost her younger brother Andrew Pittman unexpectedly last week.
- **We pray thanks and praise for all we have** here in our country. And we pray for help with food, shelter, and clothing for the **people in poor countries** or in places where there are few places to go for help.



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.