



Getting a handle on it

Today's sermon: How is the Church?

First Snow

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 1:18

We call it the first snow, but we have seen it many times before. LORD willing we will see it many times more. But the truth is that there is no snow in Heaven, and this time on Earth is just a season. Here, our eyes watch for that first flake just as, LORD willing, we will eagerly watch for the first robin to arrive in springtime. If you are like me, you hope to be the first to announce, “I saw a robin just now!” So far the first place robin-spotting award has eluded me.

Today, looking at this early taste of the new season, I wonder if God looks out from Heaven to scan this field of living souls. I have no doubt that He is eagerly watching for each soul who stands on the threshold of forgiveness, moved by the Holy Spirit to obey God's Word. Then, emerging from the waters of baptism, having left corroding sin in that grave, God sees that soul fresh, pure and white as snow.

Does Jesus see this “snow” before His Father does? That is just a picture that I imagine in my mind, but God also gives us pictures to help us grasp His gracious working among us, like that picture of snow that illustrates how complete is the forgiveness of God. When we think of the purifying power of God's Word we should remember that this is no seasonal occurrence. To be united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection through baptism (Romans 6:1-4) is to enjoy the first pure snow and the first red robin simultaneously – forever!



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

November 16, 2014

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30am

Worship- 10:30am

Wednesday Bible Class- 7:00pm

Check out the website for Valley Cities Church of Christ,

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

and that of the Antioch Initiative, which is instrumental in planting this new work:

aicoc.org

Sermons will be recorded and will be available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins will also be archived on the website.



Bible class series:

Testing the Spirits

Part One: Introduction to “spirits.”

Part Two: Test the Preacher’s spirit.

Part Three (today): Test your own spirit, final exam.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- We will be hosting an **area-wide Singing event** that includes Endwell, Horseheads and possibly other congregations on 11/30 (two weeks from now!) from 4:30-6 pm. We will be offering finger foods.
- We are looking into the prospect of mailing out into the community **Christ for Today**, an inspirational outreach leaflet.

NEWS...

- Daniel Barry, grandson of Arthur and Sandy, was baptized into Christ by his father, Robin, Wednesday the 5th in Soldotna, AK.
- We have placed an ad in the **Morning Times** local newspaper about Valley Cities Church of Christ.

PRAYERS...

- Marilyn Patrick, Tom’s mother, is recovering well from her heart attack and double bypass surgery. She can drive now much to her delight.
- Keep Daniel, the new babe in Christ, strong and on the right path. Thanksgiving for his decision.
- Judy Owens, wife of Don who preaches at the Elmore, AL Church of Christ, will be having back surgery in December.
- Ruthie and Patty Albro’s niece, Trish’s husband, Kevin Gibson, has mouth and throat cancer.
- Cindy Patrick will be having minor surgery at Robert C. Packer Hospital on January 15th.
- Thank you for being here today and thank God for the edification your presence provides for us all.



If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry barnicat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.

Songs: 259 When This Passing Day is Done, **308** Wonderful Love of Jesus, **581** I’d Rather Have Jesus, **568** Jesus, Rose of Sharon, **608** He Gave Me a Song, **652** We Have Heard the Joyful Sound