

Uncertain and Unprecedented

by Bill Brandstatter

Two words I am hearing a lot are “uncertain” and “unprecedented.” Simply put, this means the times we are in with COVID-19 are unlike anything that came before. Yet, as I am thinking about these words, every day has always been unprecedented and uncertain.

No one knows what tomorrow holds. The phrase, “Here today, gone tomorrow” is very real to many of us. James stated that life is like a vapor (James 4:14). Moses wrote in the 90th Psalm, “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; and it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” (NKJV) Every day we live is uncertain and unprecedented. Today is given to us. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not certain. Since life is that way, let us live each day. Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (Matt. 6:34) I don’t know about you, but I am still working on this.

No one knows when our Lord will return. Since tomorrow is not certain, our Lord could come back at any time. The rest of today may not remain. Preparing ourselves for that day is vital. I am convinced that if the Lord told us the exact day and exact hour when He would return that some people would wait till the last minute to make the necessary preparations; however, He does not tell us. He tells us of the uncertainty. He stated, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” (Matt. 24:36) Then He states, “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour you Lord is coming.” (Matt. 24:42) After illustrating that if the owner of the house knew when a thief was going to break in, he wouldn’t have allowed it to happen, Jesus states, “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Mt. 24:44 NKJV).

No one knows what will happen after death. The Bible tells us some of what will happen. Paul tells us it is a mystery. In 1 Cor. 15:51, he writes, “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” Then he writes about the uncertainty. He continues, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must but on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1 Cor. 15:52, 53) He had already indicated the body we are in will be changed (1 Cor. 15:42-44). John helps us to understand the uncertainty of this by indicating, “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 Jn. 3:2). So, our bodies will be changed. What exactly will we be like? We don’t know yet, but we will someday. It is uncertain now but will be certain one day.

Based on the uncertainty of life and each day being unprecedented, let us live our lives looking toward heaven. Let us want to be with the Lord one day by living for Him now knowing that every moment we live is uncertain and unprecedented. Let us look, anticipate, and prepare for our Lord’s return.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

August 9, 2020

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today’s Sermon: *Time for a Threat Assessment*

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

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: August 12th**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. Last week we began a study of Hosea.
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: TBA**



- The **Regional Men's Breakfast**, which was held here yesterday, was small but encouraging. Men were here from Endwell and Horseheads as well as Valley Cities. The men were able to get to know David Istre, the new minister at Horseheads, and they were able to discuss how we are all handling the Covid-19 crisis as we all start meeting again for worship.
- **2nd Ice Cream (at a distance) Social**- 6pm, this Friday 8/14, in our church parking lot. Help needed.



- Arthur will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for all of us as businesses and schools open amidst the Covid-19 crisis.**
- **Sandy and Arthur** are thankful that Emily and Aidan arrived safely in NY, that they have a place to live, and that Emily has a job. Please pray for Aidan to find work also.
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer. She is scheduled for surgery on Thursday to remove another mass on her lungs and also a kidney stone.
- 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.
- **Darlene and Doug** had to say goodbye to their beloved pet dog, **Hachi** last Sunday after a prolonged illness. Pray for comfort for them.
- **Jackie's sister Phyllis**, who was baptized here, sends her love to all. She will soon be moving into an assisted living place near where she lives with her daughter in FL.

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.