

Three Kinds of Men

There are three kinds of people in the world.

The first class is of those who live simply for their own sake and pleasure, regarding Man and Nature as so much raw material to be cut up into whatever shape may serve them.

In the second class are those who acknowledge some other claim upon them—the will of God, the categorical imperative, or the good of society—and honestly try to pursue their own interests no further than this claim will allow. They try to surrender to the higher claim as much as it demands, like men paying a tax, but hope, like other taxpayers, that what is left over will be enough for them to live on. Their life is divided, like a soldier's or a schoolboy's life, into time "on parade" and "off parade," "in school" and "out of school."

But the third class is of those who can say like St Paul that for them "to live is Christ." These people have got rid of the tiresome business of adjusting the rival claims of Self and God by the simple expedient of rejecting the claims of Self altogether. The old egoistic will has been turned round, reconditioned, and made into a new thing. The will of Christ no longer limits theirs; it *is* theirs. All their time, in belonging to Him, belongs also to them, for they are His.

And because there are three classes, any merely twofold division of the world into good and bad is disastrous. It overlooks the fact that the members of the second class (to which most of us belong) are always and necessarily unhappy. The tax which moral conscience levies on our desires does not in fact leave us enough to live on. As long as we are in this class we must either feel guilt because we have not paid the tax or penury because we have. The Christian doctrine that there is no "salvation" by works done to the moral law is a fact of daily experience. Back or on we must go. But there is no going on simply by our own efforts. If the new Self, the new Will, does not come at His own good pleasure to be born in us, we cannot produce Him synthetically. The price of Christ is something, in a way, much easier than moral effort—it is to want Him. It is true that the wanting itself would be beyond our power but for one fact. The world is so built that, to help us desert our own satisfactions, they desert us. War and trouble and finally old age take from us one by one all those things that the natural Self hoped for at its setting out. Begging is our only wisdom, and want in the end makes it easier for us to be beggars. Even on those terms the Mercy will receive us.

C.S. Lewis' short essay, "Three Kinds of Men," from his collection of essays, *Present Concerns* (pp. 9-10)



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
February 5, 2017

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.

Thursday

Home Bible study-7:00pm

**ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST
GREET YOU.
ROMANS 16:16**

Today's Sermon: *The Way Home.*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: John 14:1-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: February 19th Theme: Mexican!**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, February 7th at the building. We will be discussing chapter 3 of Struggle, Seek, Grow, which is about Esther.**
- **Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's Thursday nights at 7pm. Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted!**



- Please return your **plastic baby bottles** as soon as possible, and thank you for your donations.



- After much prayer and deliberation, the decision was mutually made to remove the preacher candidate for the Endless Mountains church of Christ in Tunkhannock from the list. A new search for an evangelist is underway.
- Darlene underwent a lumpectomy and lymph node biopsy on Tuesday in Williamsport. Her lymph nodes were cancer free, and she is waiting to hear whether she may still need chemo based on the size of the tumor that was removed and the margin around it. So far, our prayers have been answered! Praise the Lord!
- Remember this is the cold and flu season. Take care of yourself and others.



PRAYERS...

- Pray that we can all stay healthy.
- Pray for all of our family members and loved ones who are yet lost or have strayed far away to come (back) to Christ.
- Darlene is awaiting news from the lab concerning her future treatment for breast cancer following her recent surgery. Pray for her complete recovery and peace.
- Keep praying for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock and their search for a preacher.
- Pray for comfort for those from war-torn countries who have no homes, are starving (Northeastern Nigeria) and without water and are not safe and have lost friends and relatives in the violence that surrounds them (Aleppo).
- Remember to pray for Deborah Albro (stage 4 breast cancer) in Florida, Matthew Lowe (needs care) in Ohio, and Edna Jarrett (blood cancer), of the Bronx. Also Lori Kashorek (lung cancer) in Plattsburgh, NY and Rocky Perry (seeking the Truth) of Sayre.
- Pray for our country as we start out under a new administration. Help us to appreciate and uphold the government that we are fortunate to live under, which allows us to worship God freely.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.