

## ***The Innocence of Childhood***

By Alan Smith

Sometimes I want to be a kid again. I want to go back to the time when:

- Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny- miney-mo. "
  - Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming "do over!"
  - "Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest.
  - Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in "Monopoly."
  - Catching fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening.
  - Being old referred to anyone over 20.
  - It was magic when dad would "remove" his thumb.
  - It was unbelievable that dodgeball wasn't an Olympic event.
  - Nobody was prettier than Mom.
  - Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better.
  - Getting a foot of snow was a dream come true.
  - Abilities were discovered because of a "double-dog- dare."
  - Saturday morning cartoons weren't 30-minute ads for action figures.
  - "Oly-oly-oxen- free" made perfect sense.
  - Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles.
  - The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team.
  - War was a card game.
  - Water balloons were the ultimate weapon.
  - Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle.
  - Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin.
  - Older siblings were the worst tormentors but also the fiercest protectors.
- (author unknown)

There's an innocence about childhood. As we grow older, we lose that innocence and life becomes more complicated. Like Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, we all live out in our own lives what it means to have sin affect our relationship with God and our relationship with one another.

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked..." (Genesis 3:6-7a)

Taking the fruit of a tree giving us more knowledge isn't as wonderful as we think it will be. As we grow older, we know more and more, but often find ourselves wishing that we were younger when we didn't know nearly as much. We can never regain that innocence but thank God we can find forgiveness!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

February 9, 2020

### **WELCOME!**

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.
	Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	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:* [Acquitted! Are You Kidding Me?](#)**

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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

**[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org)** (Antioch Initiative)

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**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:10-19**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** February 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm. Paul will continue with our study of Colossians.
- **Next Potluck:** February 16<sup>th</sup>. NEXT SUNDAY! Something red?
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day:** Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Prayer is the theme. See the poster in the foyer.
- **Next Regional Singing: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, @ Horseheads 4:30pm**
- **Sojourners-** July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 6<sup>th</sup>



- There was a **congregational meeting** after worship last Sunday. Copies of the financial report are available. One major concern was that we spent more than we took in on (mostly) advertising and supplies for outreach events. As a result, we will graciously receive any donations of food and cleaning supplies, paper products, etc. that any of you feel like contributing. We will also be evaluating the effectiveness of events we host, as well as kinds of advertising to announce those events.
- **Donna Garrett**, wife of Bill, from Lewistown, PA, died unexpectedly on Sunday night as they were traveling home from Orlando. She accompanied Bill to Sayre when he spoke at our housewarming celebration, and when we had our tent meeting. Some of you might remember Donna from those times.
- **POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY! Join us in this great opportunity for fellowship.**
- **The Regional Preachers' Gathering** was postponed yesterday due to inclement weather. New meeting time TBA. Preachers from Tunkannock, Ithaca, Horseheads, Endwell and Wellsboro have been invited.

## PRAYERS

- **Please pray for Arthur and Paul**, as they are still deciding how to divide up the ministry work and secure support income for Paul.
- Pray for **Ted** as he is waiting to have surgery on his Eustachian tubes to restore his hearing. Nothing will be happening until at least May.
- Pray for **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott** and their little son, **Jace**, who has brain trauma after suffering a seizure.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor. Pray for his daughter, Emily, who is a match for him and is making plans for her surgery.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer.
- Pray for **Erin Beiber**, who has metastatic breast cancer. She has started on hospice care. Pray for the positive influence she is being on her husband, Chris, and her two sons. **Pray for pain relief and peace of mind for Erin.**
- We are thankful the **Pat Guthrie** has come through another bout of lung cancer. We pray that he stays cancer free now.
- Prayers for the group effort **Bible reading** program! Help us all feel connected knowing we are all reading or listening to the same chapters in the Bible each day.
- Prayers for the **Garrett family** for sympathy, comfort and encouragement in the death of Donna, Christian wife, mother and grandmother, and good friend to many.

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barnecat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barnecat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.