

Don't Quit!

By Lance Cordle

Like many people these days, I own an e-reader (electronic reading tablet). Also like many people, I keep several books loaded on it for the times of reading pleasure, as well as for when I have some time to kill in a waiting room, mall, etc. The company that produces my tablet sent me a challenge at the beginning of 2021: Basically, "Don't Quit!" Read more and we will reward you. They offered badges for reading seven days in a month, fifteen days in a month and thirty days in a month, and others.

However, the badge that especially caught my attention was a badge for reading from my tablet on January 19th. January 19th? What is so special about January 19th? According to the notification, someone, somewhere has determined that January 19th is the day when most people give up on their resolutions for the new year. So, as a way of saying to their readers, "Don't Quit!", they offered a badge for the day that most people would be giving up (or had already done so).

Whether in a good habit such as reading, or exercise, Bible study, or living a godly life, we need to be encouraged to keep going. That is why the book of Hebrews was written and included in the biblical canon. Most students of the Bible believe that the fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) was set to occur within a few years following the writing of this book. Whatever the circumstance was, at the time of writing (mental persecution, peer pressure, seizure of property), it was causing some Jewish Christians to quit following Jesus and return to Judaism. We do know, however, that they had not yet shed blood in their struggle (Hebrews 12:4). A "word of exhortation" (Hebrews 13:22) was needed, and provided in the form of the letter we now know as Hebrews. In fact, some scholars believe that Hebrews may have originally been a sermon.

Whatever the original form, Hebrews is indeed a "word of exhortation." Emphasizing Jesus and his way as "better" (superior) over and over again (at least thirteen times), the author admonishes the readers to continue to follow Jesus.

We know that anything that is good is worth holding onto (Philippians 4:8)—whether it be marriage, friendship, education, reading, exercise, and, especially, following Jesus! Let us use our minds and commit to continuing to do those things which are good for us.

". . . And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith . . ." in other words, "Don't Quit!"



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

February 21, 2021

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: *A Need for a Focus*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: Acts 6:1-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Teachings from the Psalms
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: February 24th at 6:30pm-** we will continue studying Zechariah
- **Sojourners: Mike and Nadine Huddleston, Larry and Kay Little, Doug and Sandy Zimmerman and Dave and Kristy Bell** hope to be here the last week in June and the first two weeks in July.



NEWS

Join our **daily Bible reading** group! Use the internet or your Bible. Ask Arthur to be invited online or for a printed-out schedule.



Paul will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- **Arthur's older brother Chris** who lives in Yorkshire, England has been diagnosed with early onset dementia. He has been cleared to begin taking medication to slow progression of his condition.
- **Pat Guthrie** has had lung cancer reoccur in his left lung. He has recently begun chemo. Please pray that he can go into remission once more.
- Pray for **Don Myers** of Elmore, AL. He is in constant pain from a back injury and reactions to the pain medication has caused him to have to give up his preaching duties.
- **José Rivera**, Molly's husband, has been laid off work until he can stabilize his blood sugar levels. Pray for him.
- Pray that **Darlene**, who still tests positive for Covid, can recover from respiratory distress and discomfort.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul's**. She has asked for prayers because she has a severe bronchial infection, and she is afraid of cancer.
- Pray that **Dan Rowe**, who lives at Elderwood in Waverly, can receive visitors and leave the facility for visits soon so he can join us in worship. Also pray that Arthur can study the gospel with **Rick Stapleton** who lives near the church building.
- **Pray that we can make a decision about whether to continue livestreaming our worship services and if so, how in depth we want to go with the process.**

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.