

## Get on Track and Stay There

A man bought a new hunting dog. Eager to see how he would perform, he took him out to track a bear. No sooner had they gotten into the woods than the dog picked up the trail. Suddenly he stopped, sniffed the ground, and headed in a new direction. He had caught the scent of a deer that had crossed the bear's path. A few moments later he halted again, this time smelling a raccoon that had crossed the path of the deer. Then a turkey, a rabbit, and so on, until finally the breathless hunter caught up with his dog, only to find him barking triumphantly down the hole of a field mouse.

One of the things for which Paul prayed was for his brethren in Colossae to be able to "approve the things that are excellent" (Philippians 1:10). He used a word here that was common among metallurgists. As they tested the quality of metal, they "approved" in the metal that which was genuine. It is used in this passage of testing that which is good or evil. That is not always easy. Easy or not, it is the thing responsible Christians must do.

Our faith gets involved in this. We should test the excellency of our personal faith. Peter informed his readers that "for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials" but also told them how beneficial such would be. He concluded, that "your faith, which is more precious than all the gold in the world, may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:6-7). The word "proved" here is the same as in Colossians 1:10.

Often Christians start out with high resolve, putting the kingdom of God first in their lives, but their attention is soon diverted to things of lesser worth. One pursuit leads to another until they've strayed far from their original purpose. Let us do our best to put first things first. So, take the divine admonition and stay on track and let nothing cause you to deviate from the straight and narrow way.

*"Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you"*  
(Proverbs 4:25).

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33).



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838  
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732  
January 7, 2018

### 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-7:00pm

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**  
ROMANS 16:16

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### **Today's Sermon:** *Say Again! A Study of Deuteronomy*

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)

Find us on Face Book

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](http://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Scripture:** Hebrews 3:1-6

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am. We will be studying Day 4 of the first chapter.**
- **Midweek Bible study Wednesday at 7pm here at the building.**
- **Housewarming Celebration- Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>- Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Speakers TBD**

**Next Potluck:** January 21<sup>st</sup>. Theme: **NEW** try a new recipe for the new year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



- ✓ On January 14<sup>th</sup> (next Sunday) we will meet after worship to adopt the bylaws and elect 2 or 3 men as trustees for our nonprofit corporation. Copies of the bylaws are available today for study. Please take one home and look it over.
- ✓ We are going ahead with the baptistery installation. John Patrick from Endwell church, which just installed a baptistery, is coming to look at our situation on Monday morning and will offer expertise from his engineering background.
- ✓ **Good fun was had by all and fortune was found by a few last week at our white elephant fellowship.**
- ✓ Doug and Darlene returned from FL in the early morning hours of Saturday. We are happy to have Darlene here with us today!
- ✓ Lani should be back with us today.
- ✓ Sam is back in town after spending the holidays in Oneonta, NY.
- ✓ Patty has a new email address: [mountainbreezemom@gmail.com](mailto:mountainbreezemom@gmail.com)

## PRAYERS...

- **Jamie Hile and his mother, Sandy**, friends of Ruthie from Newfield, NY, were killed when their home burned on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Pray for their family to find comfort with their passing.
- Pray all goes well with **Doug Elsbree** and his brother **Mark**. Doug had tests to determine if his kidneys are healthy enough to donate on Tuesday in Wilkes-Barre.
- Please remember **Kiley and Thomas** in prayer. Also pray for their grandmother, **Judy Brotzman**, as she cares for her husband.
- Pray for **Darlene** as she has tests here in Sayre to determine what her problems are and the best way to treat them.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** who has a mass on her lung.
- **Kelly** will be having surgery tomorrow to repair a hernia.
- Pray for **Joshua Dunn**, who is suffering from stage 4 lung cancer. Pray experimental treatment in St. Louis continues to help him.
- **Lori Kashorek** from Plattsburgh, NY, who has lung cancer which recently metastasized to the brain, is planning on seeking treatment at Dana Farber in Boston to see if they have any new ideas for her.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments for breast cancer (until June). Also pray for relief from lymphedema. She is anticipating bypass surgery to enable the lymphatic fluid better flow.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer throughout her body. Pray for pain relief and courage and opportunity to speak to her about salvation.
- **Pat Gutherie** from Kittanning was supposed to be having open heart surgery to repair valves on Wednesday, but it was postponed because he has a cold. Pray that repair is possible and he won't need replacement valves.

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

[barnecat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barnecat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.