

Taking Discipline Seriously - Arthur Barry

It is Super Bowl season so let us talk about an important characteristic of football players. Discipline in any endeavor requires that you take that endeavor seriously. Professional football players demonstrate that they take the game seriously every time they are on the field. You might say they are “mature” football players. If they do not demonstrate that they take the game seriously they are dropped from the team and, in fact they are expected to be “mature” and “disciplined” in between games as well. If they do not show up on time for practices, or put in the effort when they are there, or if they let other things in their life hinder their performance, they will not be picked for the next game. They are viewed as needing to grow up a bit more. Taking things seriously is the mark of adulthood. It is not that adults do not know how to have fun, but they must never forget their responsibilities.

The saints at Corinth received a rebuke from the apostle Paul because they were not taking their responsibilities seriously. He described them as “carnal” or “fleshly”. *But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?*
1 Corinthians 3:1-4

I don't imagine that any NFL coach, worth his salt, will be delivering such a pep-talk to his players. Any pro-footballer, who does not behave in a human, fleshly way is likely to get himself crushed. He is immature – he simply does not take football seriously enough. The Corinthians were immature – they did not take the Body of Christ seriously enough. They might well make the cut for a football team but in 1 Corinthians 11:29 Paul says they are actually endangering themselves by being too human.

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

They did not take the body / church (Ephesians 1:22,23) seriously, which means they did not take Jesus seriously. At the Lord's Table they filled their stomachs but left with their hearts empty (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). Their attitude was to take care of themselves first; that's the easy way. They did the same thing when it came time to worship God with their spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14). Paul, again, tells them they need to grow up. (1 Corinthians 13:11). In a child's world there is always a grown up around (at least there should be) to take care of things so that they can play, learn and grow. As Christians we must accept responsibility for each other. We must strive for the maturity that builds up the church and that means we must take Jesus and His church seriously. That is not the easy way, but it is Jesus' way.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

January 31, 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: *Prayer and Praise (Fifth Sunday)*

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: Matthew 5:1-16

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Today Paul will be teaching from the Psalms.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: February 3rd at 6:30pm- 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

- **Arthur and Sandy had a great trip to visit with the Elmore, AL church. Arthur taught the morning Bible class and preached the morning sermon. They stayed in the home of Don and Judy Myers, had catfish with the Myers and Lynn and Dave Laton, who we all know. On Sunday they ate dinner at the home of Jimmy and Judy Davis. All the elders and both preachers and wives met with Arthur and Sandy over a meal of brisket and homemade side dishes and desserts.**
- Join our **daily Bible reading** group! Use the internet or your Bible. Ask Arthur to be invited online or for a printed-out schedule.
- **Sam** has moved to Syracuse, NY for an internship which will last 6 or 7 months. He sends greetings to all his friends here and hopes to visit when he can.
- **Darlene had planned on worshipping in person with us by this time, but now Doug is not well, feverish, not hungry, cough and headache and his Covid test results are not back yet. Darlene is supposed to return to her teaching job tomorrow.**

Arthur will be leading our 5th Sunday service of prayer and praise.

PRAYERS

- **Arthur's brother Chris** who lives in Yorkshire, England has been diagnosed with early onset dementia. Please pray that he gets the right medicine and treatments to slow the progress of this condition.
- **Pat Guthrie** who many of us know from the church in Kittanning, has had lung cancer reoccur in his left lung. Please pray that he can go into remission once more.
- **José Rivera**, Molly's husband, has been laid off work until he can stabilize his blood sugar levels. Please pray that he can do that soon.
- Pray that **Doug Elsbree** gets feeling better soon and does not have Covid.
- Pray for **spiritual growth** (increased Bible class attendance and greater participation in Bible reading programs) and more people in the area who want to worship with us here in Sayre.
- Pray that **Dan Rowe**, who lives at Elderwood in Waverly, can receive visitors and leave the facility for visits soon so Arthur can continue studying the Bible with him and he can join us in worship.
- **Patty Albro's daughter Sarah** has a bad cough. She has been tested for Covid and is having chest xrays and blood tests to try to determine the cause.

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.