

## Choosing What to Believe

By Ron Bartanen

Among the many witty and thought-provoking bits of wisdom that has come my way on the Internet recently was this observation: “The truth is that most of us decide what lies we want to believe.” Prejudices abound in such realms as politics, culture and religion. True objectivity in separating fact from fiction is hard to find. We are universally affected by our backgrounds, friends and environment. A truly subjective seeking after truth in a multitude of areas of life is difficult, if not entirely impossible, to find. The result is a divided society, often resulting in chaos and even war. Life, thereby, becomes a burden upon mankind as each seeks his own way. The natural inclination of man is to seek a way that will harmonize with his own prejudices and preferences. The problem is rooted within our own degenerate hearts, which the Bible describes as “deceitful in all things, and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9).

God’s answer to man’s predicament is a person—His own Son, who declared, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Through Jesus, God has reconciled believers to Himself, through the crucifixion of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-21), uniting us with Him who is the embodiment of truth. While our minds and hearts seek to feed us an assortment of lies, in Christ we are afforded the totality of truth, as He declared to His disciples: “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32). The Holy Spirit-inspired word which they proclaimed was the word of God, as Jesus prayed on the eve of His betrayal: “Father, sanctify them through your truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17). That truth affects every facet of the believer’s worldview and conduct. We open our hearts to Satan’s lies if our hearts are not guarded by this truth, as Paul declared of those who did not love the truth, “For this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). The choice is ours.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

March 14, 2021

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

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:** *Donkeys don’t lie, but prophets sometimes do.*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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

Find us on Facebook:

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

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

**Scripture Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Teachings from the Psalms
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: March 17<sup>th</sup> at the building, 6:30pm- we will finish studying Zechariah. Come at 6 and enjoy eating with us before class.**
- **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

- **Many of us are having success getting our Covid vaccinations. A few have already had both shots, and some are done with their first one. We are looking forward to not having to deal with lockdowns and restrictions anymore.**

Arthur will be preaching today.



## PRAYERS

- **Arthur's older brother Chris** who lives in Yorkshire, England has been diagnosed with early onset dementia.
- **Pat Guthrie** has had lung cancer reoccur in his left lung. He is being treated with chemo.
- Pray for **Don Myers** of Elmore, AL. He has recently changed doctors and is hoping for some new ideas for his treatment of back pain. He recently made the decision to retire from his position at Faulkner U and the family will move to MI to be near his daughter Jenny.
- **José Rivera**, Molly's husband, has been laid off work until he can stabilize his blood sugar levels. Pray for him. He now must inject insulin twice a day, and his eyesight is being affected.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul's**. She has recently been diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer. She will be undergoing radiation.
- **Lynne Laton**, who was one of our Sojourners two years ago, has been dealing with a partially detached retina. She had laser surgery twice to repair the tear and will soon be able to return home to AL from Camp Bee in Marshall, TX.
- **Arthur's sister, Sue**, a two-time breast cancer survivor, is being checked for suspicious activity near her last outbreak. She has an appointment with the oncologist on Wednesday.
- **Arthur has been diagnosed with COPD** possibly because of serving on a naval aircraft carrier in the 70s and working near toxic substances. It causes him to cough.
- **Pray that our sisters in Christ in Bautou, China can be encouraged to meet for worship even though they are only 3 or 4 strong. Also, Jin, one of the sisters there, has lost 4 pregnancies in recent years, and asks for our prayers that she can carry a baby through to term.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.