

The Streets of Heaven Are Paved with Gilt, Not Guilt

Arthur Barry

I often think about meeting loved ones in heaven and sometimes wonder about meeting some that I do not expect to see there. Recently, however, I was nudged into thinking about meeting those I have wronged in Heaven. We all know of people who have been murderers, but have repented and been baptized - Jeffrey Dahmer, for example. Can you imagine someone like that being allowed into Heaven in the first place? But then, what happens when he meets all those whom he murdered, if any of them are in Heaven also?

So, the question is, might we be forgiven by God but face the wrath of those whom we have wronged? More realistic is the idea of being confronted with that terrible guilt when we get to Heaven. What do you say to someone who does have such a fear? What about those who have participated in the abortion industry? How many mothers carry that guilt and cannot imagine being in Heaven where they know their child has gone before them? They take comfort in the knowledge that their child is safe but deny themselves the comfort of looking forward to joining them because they cannot believe their child will be forgiving.

None of this fits with the truth of the gospel of course, but this kind of thinking is a very real consequence of the problem that the gospel is designed to cure – sin. You can hear the guilt in the words of Paul in Acts 26:11

And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

How must he have felt about the prospect of meeting some of those whose murder he participated in? Are you thinking of Steven who saw Jesus standing to welcome Him into Heaven as he was being stoned at the consent of Paul? (Acts 7:55-8:1) King David had a lot of blood on his hands. Are you thinking about Uriah? (2 Samuel 11:1-17) These were both men who should have known better – no excuses. But they were both forgiven. Listen to Paul in 1 Tim 1:13

“... though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief.”

Paul and David both understood God’s forgiveness because they knew what true repentance is. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 7:9,10

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. 10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Both men were devoted to God and understood that God’s grace is an insurmountable force if we accept it, and let God channel His grace into the world through us, forgetting what lies behind and pressing on to the goal of Heaven (Philippians 3:13,14). There is no guilt on the other side of sin because there is no sin. If there is one guilty person in Heaven then all would have to be guilty and that would be Hell, not Heaven. Christians are called to share Heaven on Earth, not Hell. Go for the gilt, not the guilt!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

March 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: *From Where Have You Come, and Where Are You Going?*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 16:3-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Teachings from the Psalms
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: March 24th at the building, 6:30pm-** we will be learning some new hymns and singing harmony. 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 was supposed to visit **Dan Rowe at Elderwood in Waverly on Friday**, but he found them to be in lockdown when he arrived. He did get to talk to Dan on the phone for a bit. It would be good if Dan could receive a card or note of encouragement from a few of us. **His address is: 44 Ball St., Apt. 110, Waverly, NY 14892.**

Paul will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- **Arthur's older brother Chris** who lives in Yorkshire, England has been diagnosed with early onset dementia.
- **Pat Gutherie** has had lung cancer reoccur in his left lung. He is being treated with chemo.
- **Tim** will be starting a new job at Gutchess Lumber in Cortland tomorrow. We pray that that goes well for him.
- Pray for **Don Myers** of Elmore, AL. 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.
- **Arthur's sister, Sue**, a two-time breast cancer survivor, is being checked for suspicious activity near her last outbreak. She had an appointment with the oncologist last week, and he ordered a needle biopsy in a few days.
- **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 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 or text or call (607) 261-0911.