

## Perspective

by: A. Jay Kelly

"If you will return, O Israel, return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' then the nations will be blessed by him and in him they will glory."  
Jeremiah 4:1-2

By the time Jeremiah wrote, the nation of God consisted only of Judah. Israel - the northern kingdom - had been destroyed because of their apostasy about a century earlier by God through the Assyrians.

Judah was about to experience the same thing. Although Josiah was on the throne and he was arguably the best king in their history, their own apostasy was too far gone.

But, God was still there pleading for their return and not just out of concern for them. If they would return, He tells them, the nations would also be blessed.

That is a message for today. You see, we can get so tied up in the world and worldliness that we forget our purpose. We can even become like the Prodigal Son and forget we are the children of God.

If that happens, we can be assured of something else as well. God is still there, pleading and waiting like the prodigal's father. He has a ring, a robe and a feast waiting for our return.

Yes, there are consequences for sin. Judah was destroyed for theirs. There was a remnant, however, who did return and from whom came the Messiah.

God can do the same with us. Sin may hurt us physically and spiritually, but it cannot destroy us unless we refuse God's offer.

That's a message we all need to hear.

It's also a message we need to tell.



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732  
March 31, 2019

### 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-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: *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross***

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 Facebook

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

**Scripture: Philippians 2: 5-11**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class:** We will study Day 1 of Lesson 9 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will meet at the building @ 10am.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** April 3, Arthur will be continuing with our study of Ephesians.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing-** the next one will be June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Men's Revival- Putting "man" Back in the Hood-**June 1<sup>st</sup> here at Valley Cities.
- **Sojourners** here- July 8-18. We are planning a Gospel meeting at this time and Kittanning may decide to do the VBS then, also.
- **Next Potluck:** the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.



### NEWS

- **Today is Bring a Friend Sunday!** Please make sure we meet your friends if you brought a guest today.
- **Arthur and Sandy** have returned from Seattle after a fabulous trip. They celebrated their son, Kevan's retirement from the Air Force, 23 of their children and grandchildren and spouses enjoyed a family reunion in the Cascade Mtns. and Arthur and Sandy were treated to a float plane trip to San Juan Island where they spent two nights to celebrate their upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- **Paul Cowles** will be preaching today.
- **Ronnie Jones** called Arthur. His voice is not his old strong voice, and he couldn't talk for too long, but he wanted us to know that he is thinking of us and praying for us and yet plans to be here to help us as soon as he is able.

## PRAYERS

- Continue to pray for **Peyton** concerning the seizures she has been having. The frequency of the seizures has been greater.
- **Mark Elsbree**, Doug's older brother, needs prayer that he will be matched with a kidney donor soon.
- Pray for **Marilynn Patrick** who is battling metastatic colon cancer.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for **Jackie** securing an apartment in Sayre! Welcome, Jackie!
- Prayer of thanksgiving for a safe trip to Seattle and happy family reunion for the **Barry's**.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** –stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Erin Beiber** - metastatic breast cancer.
- Continue to pray for **Ronnie Jones** (stroke) and **Don Myers** (back pain).
- Pray for our **prayer ministry**.
- Pray for our **Bible classes**, both Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings as well as Ladies' Class. Attendance is almost non-existent for most of these classes.

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.