

Having Faith in Confusing Times

Timothy E. Davis

"For my thoughts are higher than your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

Trust. It is a small word but an essential element for any successful relationship. We know that a relationship without trust has no chance of succeeding. A marriage cannot be successful when a trust has been broken. A friendship cannot last without trust. A child that does not trust his parents is likely to experience an extremely difficult childhood.

As mortals, we are extremely fallible. That is why human trust can be broken and lost so easily. Trust produces faith but faith requires trust. The two cannot stand alone. Faith asks us to follow directions and go into situations often lacking a clear understanding of why we are doing so. But we understand that their perspective and understanding of the situation is better and clearer than ours, and, based on past experiences, we know they have our best interests at heart and that what is occurring is occurring for our benefit.

Unlike trust we place in people, the trust we give to God will never be abused, broken, or lost. Human trust breaks because of our fallibility; His trust never breaks because He is infallible. The Father's character assures us that He has a plan to get us through any trial we may be facing and we know He loves us and, just like an earthly Father, only wants the best for His children.

Throughout history, men and women have wondered how a loving Master can put them into dangerous and confusing circumstances. The children of Israel could not understand why they had to wander the desert for 40 years. But The Great I Am had a plan! Abraham did not understand why His Father would ask him to slay Isaac. But He had a plan! Joseph could not understand why his own brothers sold him into slavery. But God had a plan! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego could not understand why they were thrown into the fiery furnace. But they had faith and trust in the Creator and knew He had a plan. And finally, Jesus' disciples could not understand why He had to die on the cross. But Jehovah had an amazing plan!

There are times in every believer's walk with Christ that we simply cannot understand what He is trying to do. But we must remember circumstances are a matter of perspective, ours, and God's. Ours is earthly and is extremely limited in scope. Our Father's is eternal and is unlimited in scope. From His perspective in Heaven, Our Lord can look far into the future, an ability that we do not have. How, then, can we endure through those times of our lives? Like our toasty friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, trust in the Master and have faith in his eternal and unlimited perspective!



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

October 25, 2020

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: *Salvation – What's it all about?*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:16,17

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: October 28th**, at the building at 6:30. We will begin our study of Habakkuk. Please join us!



NEWS

- We are currently working on getting **House to House** leaflets mailed out to households in the Valley next month. **The Gospel of Christ** leaflet should be arriving any day now if it hasn't already been delivered.
- **Sandy and Arthur** returned from their encouraging and refreshing mini vacation to the Adirondacks on Thursday. They were the guests of John and Denise Kashorek, who have a hospitality ministry near Cold Brook, NY.
- **Mike Huddleston called recently and said he and Nadine will be leading the Sojourners group of 4 couples that will be coming here the last week of June and the first two weeks of July. Kay and Larry Little will also be returning along with two couples who will be new to us.**
- Paul will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for our national election on Tuesday, November 3rd. We should each spend time in prayer and meditation before voting.**
- **Pray for Paul's sister Linda** as doctors decide how to proceed to deal with the mass in her abdomen.
- **Pray for Ted** as he had a biopsy on his kidneys last week which indicated a low-grade cancer. Following the biopsy, he underwent a cryoablation procedure which will hopefully kill any cancer that was present. He is thankful that his neck pain caused by the position he had to maintain during the biopsy has abated.
- **Jackie** is in a lot of pain with arthritis. Please pray that she can find the right medicine to manage her pain.
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his aggressive esophageal cancer. The doctors were not able to get all the cancer when they did his surgery, so he must undergo more chemotherapy as soon as his resection surgery heals.
- **Doug Kashorek has asked for prayers for himself and his wife Lori who has lung cancer.** Lori is on hospice care now. Their son Tim and his wife Rachel have also just announced they are expecting a baby in June 2021.

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.