

The Greatest Nation on Earth

Arthur Barry

I used to be very offended by Americans who continually boasted about America as being the “greatest country on Earth”. Being an immigrant, I couldn’t believe that anyone could ever be so arrogant. Even if it was true, what kind of person went around bragging about it? Fifty years later it seems that we are more likely to hear Americans denigrating this country and, ironically, I get upset about that now. Even if America has problems, what kind of person goes around blaming America for all that is bad in the world?

Anyone who reads their Bible knows that there is a lot of discussion about nations in there. We see historic details about Babylonians and Assyrians. We learn about the rise and fall of nations like Egypt and Greece. We even encounter prophecies about nations such as Rome. The Bible is full of world conflicts with many victories and lots of defeats. Christianity was to be born amid the turmoil of a world that chafed against the rule of Rome, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came under the authority of Caesar. He was born in Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus ordered a census be taken (Luke 2:1-4). He died in Jerusalem when Pontius Pilate gave the final order for him to be crucified (John 19:16).

Those who put on Christ in baptism came from every nation under Heaven, but each one of them knew that they were being conscripted into the army of God. The Revelation presents a graphic depiction of the struggle between God’s people and the world, and it sounds a lot like the Old Testaments prophets who named nations and so often prophesied doom. Well, Almighty God is the One who raises up nations and the One who brings them down. Is there a nation that He prefers when all is said and done? If we asked Him which nation is the greatest nation on Earth, what would his answer be? After all, if there is to be such a claim, surely, we should have God’s word on that matter? Did God ever say that America is the greatest nation on Earth? Some say you can find that in the prophets, but it is not there. How about Rome in its day? Did He pronounce Rome the greatest nation, as it surely was at that time? Actually, He warned of Rome’s destruction.

So, we should be careful about proclaiming any nation to be the greatest nation on Earth. Nonetheless, I have a feeling that if we could ask God about that, and if He did give us an answer, the answer would have no nationality at all. Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven come from all nations on Earth and He has said we are His Chosen Nation (1 Peter 2:9). We are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). So, if I were to claim the church is the greatest nation on Earth, would I get an “AMEN!”?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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September 13, 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: *How Do You Like Your Truth – Ugly, Veiled or Plain?*

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: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: September 16th**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. We will be continuing our study of Hosea. Please join us!
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: TBA**



- **We are planning a cookout in the parking lot at noon on Saturday, the 26th. We will be giving out hot dogs and chips to our neighbors and friends. Come by and help out!**



- We are currently working on getting **House to House** leaflets mailed out to households in the Valley.
- **David Curry**, preacher at Endwell, had his second knee replacement surgery last week. We are praying for a speedy recovery for him.
- **Ben Wright**, an elder at the Kittanning church, who we all know, was in the ER and overnight in the hospital last week because they couldn't control the bleeding following oral surgery.
- Arthur will be preaching today.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for all of us as schools open amidst the Covid-19 crisis. We pray that teachers, staff and students remain safe and virus free.**
- **Pray for Tim as he recovers from his infection and the dental appointment he had on Tuesday.**
- Pray for **Ted** because he is suffering from vertigo and has lost his balance and fallen recently.
- Pray for **Jerry**, who is on blood thinners and has trouble controlling bleeding when he cuts or scrapes himself.
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his esophageal cancer in the months to come. He should be having surgery soon to remove the cancer.
- **Doug Kashorek has asked for prayers for himself and his wife Lori as she has decided to go home to be with the Lord when He decides to take her.** Lori is on hospice care now.
- **Please pray about the Lord's Supper and how we can keep our faith and please God during this time of pandemic. Keep us all safe from illness.**

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.