

## How to Do Everything – by the Man Who Should Know

By Arthur Barry

That is the title of a book by Steve Smith, the star of the popular sitcom sketch series “Red Green” from the ‘90s. It was sort of a Canadian version of “Home Improvement”. His claim to fame was his incredible ability to make just about anything out of just about anything plus duct tape. The above mentioned book is full of such helpful ideas and quite a lot of practical advice about life in general, I like suggestions to help you feel good about yourself, beginning with “remove all mirrors from your home.”

The thing about Red Green is that, even though his inventions and suggestions are meant to make us laugh, much of what he says leaves me thinking, “hmm... that just might work!” There is usually something sensible about his madness.

As with Red Green’s writings, there is a dose of madness in the wisdom, and a measure of wisdom in the madness, of the words we find in the book of Ecclesiastes. *And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:17)*

The Bible book of Ecclesiastes is written by King Solomon and, despite the fact that duct tape is nowhere mentioned, there are some striking similarities in the way Solomon presents himself as one who should know whatever needs to be known. He boasts of having experienced heights of human accomplishment and pleasures beyond anything experienced by other men. *So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. (Ecclesiastes 2:9, 10)*

Yet Solomon’s words are bleak and his soul is heavy. There is no humor in what he sees in life. *Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 2:11)*

Solomon’s dilemma is man’s dilemma, amplified by the fact that he had unlimited power. We have incredible gifts from God, but we like to focus on our gifts and not the One who gave them to us. We convince ourselves that there is nothing to know beyond what we can see and do. This leads to madness and folly, which is only heightened by our attempts to make God a mere accomplice to vanity. When all is said and done, whether a king or a servant, we all need to hear Solomon’s conclusion. *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

Fear of God opens a dimension beyond what we see and do and gives us victory over vanity. Fear of God should be the duct tape that we all apply to our lives.



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

April 23, 2017

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.

#### Thursday

Home Bible study-7:00pm

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**ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
GREET YOU.  
ROMANS 16:16**

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### Today’s Sermon: *Where in the World is the Church?*

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)

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**Scripture:** Acts 8:1-3 ; 9:26-31

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: May 21<sup>st</sup>. Theme: TBA Ideas, anyone?**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the building. We hope to be discussing chapter 7 of Struggle, Seek, Grow, about Sarah!**
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing will be held here at Valley Cities at 4:30pm NEXT Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Midweek Bible study Thursday nights at 7pm.**
- **Men's Revival, Inner Man: the Uprising, Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Arthur has lined up speakers from Newark, NY and Endwell, NY.**



- ✓ Please let Sandy know if you are willing to make soup, salad, sandwiches or dessert, provide beverages or snacks for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday singing next Sunday.
- ✓ Our **Spring Theme Potluck** will be held following worship today.
- ✓ Kevan Barry, Sandy and Arthur's son in Seattle, will be deploying to Kuwait in July for 6 months with the US Air Force. His wife and two small children will remain in WA.
- ✓ Ruthie had a stress test and echocardiogram on Monday to check out why she had a tachycardia episode a few weeks ago.



## PRAYERS...

- Pray for all of our family members and loved ones who are yet lost or have strayed far away to come (back) to Christ.
- Kelly McElhaney will have a coronary ablation on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> here at Guthrie to correct her tachycardia.
- Harper is suffering from allergies, which are causing her distress. She has been tested recently, but is still having symptoms. Pray for relief and helpful test results.
- Please pray for Loren, an acquaintance of Lani's, here in Sayre. Arthur also knows him.
- Please pray for Tracy Spencer, Rhonda's friend from work, who has been diagnosed with lupus.
- Darlene's husband Doug will soon be tested to see if he is compatible to donate a kidney to his brother, Mark. Doug has recently been found to have low red and white blood count, possibly signaling internal bleeding. His next appointment is in late May.
- Vicki Joyce, of Locust Grove, OK has breast cancer. She tested positive for the HER+ gene mutation, which is an added cause for concern. She is grateful for our prayers, as are her mom, Jackie, and sisters, Darlene and Dara.
- Please pray for Emily Barry as she makes a decision about the node on her thyroid.
- Kiley Dolan has asked for prayers for her mother, Heather Morse, who is working on getting her life together following incarceration.
- Patty Albro's son, Tim, needs prayer to give him strength to deal with problems in his life now. Patty would like prayers too as she tries to help him.
- Please pray for Emily Barry's son Aidan, as he is dealing with emotional problems for which he will be getting counseled.
- If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

**barncat7237@gmail.com** or text or call (607) 261-0911.