

## What Kind of Faith Do You Want?

By J. Randal Matheny

One of the world's largest businesses tailors its offerings to people's desires and needs. Do you want a big business that can become a career and pay you more now than you could ever make where you are? They've got the plan for you. Or is your ambition level lower, your enthusiasm small, so that you want to just supplement your income with a bit of extra? They've also got a plan for you. Both plans are good.

The Way of Jesus Christ does not tailor its plan to the ambition or desire of the disciple. God has but one plan. We do not opt for different levels, types, or models of faith. There is but "one faith" (Ephesians 4:3).

God shows us what that one faith is (and is not) and how we can acquire and nourish it.

Faith is not secret, as the gospel of John shows us. Faith declares itself. Faith cannot keep quiet, but is always confessing and professing the Lord, (2 Corinthians 4:13; Galatians 1:23).

Faith is not ignorant. Faith and knowledge go together, (2 Peter 3:13). In fact, the Bible speaks of "the faith" as that body of truths that must be accepted and proclaimed, (1 Timothy 4:1); (Jude 3). To be saved, faith must believe certain truths, (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is not inactive. Rather, it cannot be still, (Acts 14:22). It must be moving, up and about, serving, seeking, speaking a good word for the Master. Faith needs action, but action that expresses the essence of its nature.

Faith is not stationary. It moves always forward toward its goal. It seeks maturity, growth, progress for self and for others, (Philippians 1:25; Titus 1:1), and for the body of Christ. Faith has a goal: the salvation of souls, (1 Pet 1.9).

Faith is not solitary. It seeks company, (Philippians 1:27). It is not heartless, but loving and ever seeks to express that love. Paul spoke of "the faith you share with us" (Philemon 6).

Just as there are gospels that are no gospel at all, (Galatians 1.6-9), there are also faiths that are no faith. But there is only one saving faith, (James 2.14).

You can opt for any number of faiths. But only one will get you into the presence of God and into the eternal abode where the faithful will live forever.



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

May 21, 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: *Are You an Undertaker?*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

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**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:1-6

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: June 18. Summer theme.**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope to be discussing chapter 10 of Struggle, Seek, Grow, about Jochabed! Sandy will be our facilitator.**
- **Midweek Bible study Thursday nights at 7pm.**



- ✓ Lani has received an MS in Exercise and Sport Sciences. Her hooding ceremony was held yesterday at Ithaca College. Her parents and brother have come to celebrate with her and they are all worshipping at the Ithaca church this morning.
- ✓ Sam would like to invite you all to a Nigerian dinner at his home this Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. He is being very gracious and will do all the cooking himself. Please come and enjoy a new culinary experience at 317D Hayden St., Sayre, near the hospital at around 4:30pm.



- ✓ There will be a summer outreach campaign in Tunkhannock involving visiting workers, beginning in June.
- ✓ Darlene and Jackie will be leaving June 5<sup>th</sup> for OK to be with Vicki as she recovers from breast cancer surgery. They will return on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Arthur and Sandy have booked a flight to Alaska on June 26<sup>th</sup>, returning July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ We have a new 3 year old with us today. Harper had a birthday yesterday! ;-)

## 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.
- Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, preacher in Plattsburg, NY, who we have been praying about concerning her lung cancer, now has a large brain tumor. Prognosis is good and doctors are confident they can remove it all during surgery on Tuesday. Her lung cancer continues to be contained. Lori also lost her mother last week from the same kind of lung cancer.
- 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 blood cell count. His next appointment is the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month with the VA.
- Vicki Joice had a successful lumpectomy on Tuesday, and her lymph node biopsy came back negative! Thank you, God!
- Emily Barry has to have surgery in the third or fourth week of July on her thyroid to remove a large node for biopsy. Pray for courage for Emily and a negative result for cancer.
- Please remember Kiley and Thomas Dolan's mom, Heather Morse, in prayer.
- Remember Patty Albro's son, Tim, as he deals with problems in his life.
- Remember Loren, the man who lives in his van near where Lani lives.
- Patty and Ruthie's sister in law, Deborah has kidney problems and needs eye surgery. She also has concerns about a blood clot in her arm.
- 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.