

Can You Trust Your Bible? by Gary Knuckles

“You can’t trust your Bible because it’s been translated so many times.”

It’s always been popular to criticize the Bible and try to diminish or destroy its influence. Some do so because they are unbelievers while others are looking for a less stringent form of the Christian faith. In either case, it is an effort to “loosen” moral restraints/responsibility so the individual can be “free to explore” their own distinctiveness.

It has been said that we cannot trust the Bible because it has been translated so many times. This misconception assumes that there is no manuscript evidence in Biblical languages and that all we have today is simply a copy of previous copies that have been edited and altered through the years.

In reality, we have thousands of manuscripts of the Bible in the Greek and Hebrew languages in which it was originally written. The Dead Sea Scrolls, found in 1947, date back to the period we most commonly call “the Intertestamental Period” between the end of Malachi and the beginning of Matthew’s gospel. Most New Testament manuscripts date from the second century AD, though a few have been dated to the period of the apostles. The remarkable thing about this is that these manuscripts for both the Old and New Testaments confirm the Bible as we have it today.

Not only do we have manuscript evidence for the Bible, we also know the languages in which it was written and can easily translate these into our modern English language. Through studies of ancient, non-biblical writings, we are able to understand the idioms of Biblical times, historical settings, and the wide range of meanings given to some words and phrases. There is actually more evidence for the Bible than there is for the writings of the ancient Greek philosophers! In fact, much of what we have from the ancient philosophers are copies of copies handed down through the years. Yet, some will accept their writings without question while disputing the genuineness of the Bible.

Yes, you can trust your Bible. It is not merely a copy of translations. It is the product of many tedious hours of studying, examination, testing, and cross referencing in order to give us God’s word as it was delivered to the authors!



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

December 3, 2017

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Thursday</u>	Home Bible study-7:00pm

All the churches of Christ greet you.
ROMANS 16:16

Today’s Sermon: **Give Me Shell-ter**

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: Luke 17:20-37

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, December 5th, 10am. We will be studying Days 3 and 4 of the first chapter. We can probably meet in the new building although we probably won't have had the closing yet.**
- **Midweek Bible study at 7pm. We plan on changing back to Wednesday nights as soon as we get into the building, but for this week, it is still TBA.**

Next Potluck: January 15th. Theme: **NEW** try a new recipe for the new year!



- ✓ **NEW CHURCH BUILDING!** The closing was scheduled to take place on November 29th. Our new church building address is **701 S. Wilbur St., Sayre, PA 18840**. You may not be aware, but we still haven't had a closing. Hopefully we can accomplish that this week.
- ✓ Darlene will be traveling to Philadelphia in December for several days of GI testing. Doug will be donating a kidney to someone, and, in return, his brother Mark will receive a kidney from someone who is a match for him.
- ✓ **Special First-Sunday-In-The-New-Building Potluck** today! Please stay and enjoy fellowship and delicious food with us.

PRAYERS...

- Pray all goes well with **Doug Elsbree** and his brother **Mark**.
- **Emily Barry** is planning thyroid surgery in December here in Sayre.
- Please remember **Kiley and Thomas** in prayer. Also pray for their grandmother, **Judy Brotzman**, as she cares for her husband Grayson, who is a difficult patient.
- Pray for **Darlene** as she has tests in Philadelphia December 18-22 and returns there the 27th and 28th.
- Darlene's workmate at Epiphany School, **Andrea Lentz**, who is the secretary, has developed a mass on her lung after a long bout with pneumonia and difficulty breathing.
- Pray for **Kevan Barry's** safety during his deployment in Kuwait, and for his family as they carry on at home. Only a couple more weeks!
- **Pat Guthrie** is preparing for open heart surgery soon to repair or replace two valves. Pray that surgeons are successful in repairing them.
- **Kelly** broke a tooth last week and had to spend some time in the dentist chair.
- Kelly asked for prayer for **her friend Sarah** with her marriage. There has been some improvement there.
- Pray for **Joshua Dunn**, who is suffering from stage 4 lung cancer. Pray experimental treatment continues to help him.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments for breast cancer. She is now halfway through! Pray for relief from lymphedema.
- **Ruthie** has reconnected with two former neighbors, for possible **Bible study**. Her former workmate, **Nancy**, is suffering from pain in her foot due to diabetes.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** (wife of Darlene's cousin Chris), mother of two young boys, has metastatic breast cancer. She has asked for prayers as she comes to terms with the reality of her cancer and says she needs God to help her through it.

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.