

How Do I Know?

Our understanding of our world, and how things work is based largely on the fact that just about everything has an opposite. If something were described as “dry” it would be meaningless to us if we did not know about “wet”. How would we know what “light” is if there were no such thing as “dark”? Could you be tall in a world where there was no short? Could you be happy in a world where there was no sad? If we did not have the word *sad* in our language, we would not have the word *happy*, either. What if you were born in an isolated paradise where there was no such thing as hunger? One day a ship arrives that is full of starving people, and then more and more ships full of people arrive from a place where they know the word *hunger*. And now you know *hunger* too. You not only see hungry people, you must feed them, and there is not enough food anymore. Soon you too are hungry. You never knew the word *satisfied* until you became hungry; you were never conscious of being full until you became empty.

So much of what we know comes from knowing the opposite.

Here are some things that I know:

- I am a sinner; therefore, there must also be sinlessness somewhere.
- I will die, which means there must also be deathlessness somewhere.
- I have fears; therefore, there must also be fearlessness somewhere.
- I have time, so there must also be timelessness somewhere.

The more I think about Heaven, the more I have come to believe that it is a place with no opposites, no alternatives, and no choices. Mankind was born in an isolated paradise, and he knew no hunger. He had no concept of fear or doubt, but the forbidden fruit supplied the knowledge of the opposites of good and evil. You see, they could not know “good” until they knew “evil,” also. We know they were good because the Bible tells us that God called everything that He had made “good” (Genesis 1:31), but I don’t think they had the ability to think in terms of good or evil yet. For God to speak in those terms, however, there must have been evil around somewhere. Satan, the fallen angel, was already in rebellion against God, and he succeeded in breeding rebellion in mankind by supplying an alternative to God’s Word, and convincing Adam to eat from the forbidden tree. Once he had eaten his fill, he became quite empty. He now knew hunger and he knew fear and he knew death, and he knew darkness. Having been banished from the Garden of Eden, life for man became harder and shorter and the tree of life faded almost from memory. In fact, if we did not have God’s Word about that tree, we would not know about it. We would only know that dying is the process of giving up life, and that somehow, somewhere there must be the process of giving up death. There must be some other Adam who can get us started again, an Adam who will help us get back to that isolated paradise, an Adam who will love God as though there is no other choice. AB



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
January 21, 2018

WELCOME!

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| <u>Sunday</u> | Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m. |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m. |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | Bible Study-7:00pm |

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

Today's Sermon: [Signs and Wonders in Sayre.](#)

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:1-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, January 23rd, 10am. We will be studying Day 4 of the first chapter.**
- **Midweek Bible study Wednesday at 7pm here at the building.**
- **Bill Colwell from World Bible School in TX will be here on April 14th to do a workshop presentation for the purpose of getting us involved in using that very effective resource for reaching the lost all over the world as well as locally.**
- **5th Sunday Regional Singing @ Horseheads, April 29th, 4:30pm.**
- **Housewarming Celebration- Thursday, May 31st- Sunday, June 3rd. Speakers TBD**

Next Potluck: February 18th.



- ✓ Today, we will meet after worship to adopt the bylaws and elect 2 or 3 men as trustees for our nonprofit corporation. We will also have a short discussion about the baptistery so we can get it ordered as it is a 4-6 week delivery period.
- ✓ The men's meeting planned for last Saturday was postponed due to inclement weather. We will try for another time.
- ✓ Pat Guthrie from Kittanning had open heart surgery to repair valves in his heart on Wednesday. He is still in the hospital, but everything went well and he is recovering as expected.

PRAYERS...

- Please remember **Kiley and Thomas** in prayer. Also pray for their grandmother, **Judy Brotzman**, as she cares for her husband.
- Pray for **Darlene** as she has tests here in Sayre to determine what her problems are and the best way to treat them.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** who has a mass on her lung.
- Pray for **Joshua Dunn**, who is suffering from stage 4 lung cancer. Pray experimental treatment in St. Louis continues to help him.
- **Lori Kashorek** from Plattsburgh, NY, who has lung cancer which recently metastasized to the brain, is planning on seeking treatment at Dana Farber in Boston to see if they have any new ideas for her.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments for breast cancer (until June). Also pray for relief from lymphedema. She is anticipating bypass surgery to enable the lymphatic fluid better flow.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer throughout her body. Pray for pain relief and courage and opportunity to speak to her about salvation.
- We are thankful that **Pat Guthrie** had a successful heart surgery and pray that he recovers well and soon.
- Pray that we can all be like minded as we **worship** here in our new building and make plans to use our new facility for purposes that are in line with God's will. Be with us, Lord, as we prepare to be able to **baptize new believers and show hospitality** to brethren and visitors. **Let us keep our eyes on Jesus in everything we do.**

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.