

The Christian Filter
By Robert Guinn

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things,” (Philippians 4:8).

Is it True? The mind of a Christian is to be rooted in truth. If an action is deceptive in its presentation or design, it should be avoided and not dwelt upon. Remember, sin promises pleasure, but it is a passing pleasure which deceives many (Hebrews 3:13, 11:25). How much time is spent worrying over things which are not true? Much anxiety is brought on by suspicion and false conclusion.

Is it Noble or Honorable? When you turn on the television, read headlines in the newspaper, or read articles on the internet, do they tend to focus on the shallow, cheap, pointless, reckless, and malicious deeds of the world? Yet, Christian minds are to be centered on respectable and dignified matters. Our actions should literally command a sense of respect.

Is it Just? A Christian is one that desires to do the right thing. The essence of their being is captured in the idea of not rejoicing in wrongdoing or unrighteousness but in what is true and just (1 Corinthians 13:6). If the action, thought, and/or moment promotes injustice, Christians are exhorted to shun such behavior and handle the situation in an appropriate manner.

Is it Pure? Christians should be concerned with what is morally right. God’s people are to be holy, for He is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Those that are pure see things purely, but, to those who are defiled, nothing is pure (Titus 1:15). The Christian’s inward being is to be focused on the pure, bringing them closer to God (Matthew 5:8).

Is it Lovely? Our actions and thoughts are to be friendly and acceptable. These actions and thoughts call out love from one person to the next. This implies the idea of eliminating personal agendas bent on vengeance, bitterness, or harm to others. Rather than causing resentment, the Christian desires to instill charity, gentleness, and patience within their fellow man.

Is it Commendable or of Good Report? A Christian’s actions and thoughts are those which can be spoken well of. Not just in how they are viewed by others, but, rather, they consider if they could entertain such an action or thought in the presence of the Lord. Would you feel comfortable doing this knowing the Lord is watching? Be honest. Things need to be considered praise- worthy and excellent.

Do our actions and thoughts pass the Christian filter test?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
March 18, 2018

WELCOME!

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <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: God's Border Wall

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

Find us on Face Book

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Scripture: Zechariah 2:1-5

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, March 20th, the first day of spring! 10am. We will be studying Day 2 of the third chapter. Be sure to get your copies from Sandy today.**
- **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 so far are Don Myers from Montgomery, AL, Larry Krause from Kittanning, PA, and Steve Connors from Horseheads, NY.**

Next Potluck: Next Sunday! March 25th Think Spring!

We should be able to use our new kitchen by then.



- **Our baptistery is fully functional!** The kitchen has been planned out and **a sink purchased**. Appliances are set approximately where they will be installed if you wish to go downstairs and have a look. **Flooring** has also been installed in the area.
- **Sandy and Arthur's son, Robin**, from Soldotna, AK is here with us today. They will all be driving down to Kittanning to drop off the van we are donating and spend the night before taking Rob to the airport in Pittsburgh for his return home.

PRAYERS...

- Thank you, Lord for the **visitors** we have been welcoming since our change of location!
- **Donald's daughter Cindy and her daughter Mariska** need prayer.
- **Dara**, Darlene's sister, is searching for employment, as both of her current jobs have been cutting back hours.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** as she has radiation to deal with the mass on her lungs.
- **Lori Kashorek** has started her experimental chemo treatments, and we pray it will keep her lung cancer in check and not make her too sick to continue working as a music teacher.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments until June. Also, pray that she doesn't become discouraged dealing with lymphedema on a daily basis.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer throughout her body. Her new chemo is causing her pain and weakness. She asks for prayers to help her deal with her impending death and leaving her two sons as they become teenagers.
- **Emily Barry** will have thyroid surgery on the 24th of April in Sayre. She has started a new job but is still hoping to get hired by the post office. She is also enrolled in an online university.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- Please pray for **José (Pancho) Rivera**, Sandy and Arthur's son in law, as he is trying to get his diabetes under control and suffering from anxiety. He wants to get back to work to relieve financial stress for his family.
- **Connie** is looking for work in the Sayre area. She asks for prayers for that effort. She also is looking for a reasonably priced car.
- **Ted** has been very ill with flu and is still recovering. **Ethan** has suffered with ear infections.

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.