

How Should We Pray for Enemies?

(AB)

Recent developments in my home state of New York have caused me to reflect on a couple of big decisions.

1. Is it time to move out of NY?
2. How do I formulate prayer that satisfies my outrage and my faith?

Governor Cuomo and the Democrats who now control the state legislature have rolled back any protections for unborn children that Republicans had been defending. Mr. Cuomo has been outspoken about pro-lifers and anti-same-sex marriage proponents not being welcome in NY. One good brother calls this man the latest reincarnation of Caesar, and I wholeheartedly agree. His move to make abortion a “fundamental right” and the jubilant applause he has received from so many are hard to comprehend on many levels.

It is easy to feel helpless, but as Christians we must be assured that God hears our prayers. My question is, how should I pray about this outrage, or should I pray about matters outside the church at all? Most references to prayer in the New Testament are in the context of praying for brethren and even when encouraged to pray for kings (2 Timothy 2:1-3) it is for the benefit of the church. There is an example of prayer offered by the church on behalf of Peter when Herod imprisoned him (Acts 12:5). What happened next? Peter was miraculously rescued (12:6-19) and the next thing we read about is Herod being struck down by the hand of God (12:20-24).

Based on the Teachings of Jesus that we are to love and pray for our enemies (Matthew 5:44) we cannot conclude that the Church prayed for the death of Herod and we certainly acknowledge that vengeance is the LORD’s (Romans 12:19). Again, this is referring to those who harm the brethren. Does it apply to those who harm the population in general, as is the case with NY abortion law? Given that true religion is defined as caring for widows and orphans in their affliction (James 1:27) I think it is a privilege to pray for these unborn children and their mothers and fathers.

I am asking God to thwart the plans of men, and women, that cause so much affliction, but I recognize that prayer must also include a request that was included when the church thanked God for Peter’s safe return from an earlier encounter with authorities.

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness (Acts 4:29)

A denial of the work of God in Christ always leads to madness and depravity, but our witness to the work of God in Christ must continue.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
January 27, 2019

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: *What Shape Am I in?*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Annual Corporation meeting:** At the annual meeting Arthur was re-elected to the position of 1-year trustee. Copies of the minutes are available.
- **Ladies Class:** We will resume with Day 1 of Lesson 8 on the 29th. We will most likely meet at Sandy's house at 10:30.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** January 30th. Arthur will be teaching Ephesians, continuing in chapter 2.
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day-** Saturday, March 16th. Sandy will be the speaker for the day. The text is Psalm 1.
- **5th Sunday Regional Singing-** the next one will be March 31st at Horseheads.
- **Sojourners** here- July 8-18. We are planning a Gospel meeting at this time and Kittanning may decide to do the VBS then, also.

Next Potluck: February 17th. Make something pink or red!



- We have launched our **community prayer ministry**. The mailbox is installed at the foot of the steps near the sidewalk. We have had several prayer requests already.
- Arthur has completed a **financial report** and projected budget for 2019. Copies are available today.
- It has come to our attention that **Cathy Carey's daughter Kimberly and family lost their home to a fire** and are currently living in a motel. We hope to have more information soon.
- **Arthur** has started a series of classes in preparation for **volunteering as a chaplain at the hospital** here in Sayre.

POTLUCK DINNER TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP! STAY AND SHARE!

PRAYERS...

- **Mark Elsbree**, Doug's older brother, has been put on the national list for kidney donors. Please pray that he finds a donor match soon.
- **Darlene** and Doug are preparing to leave FL this week, and she should be worshiping with us again next Sunday. Pray for safe travels.
- **Patty asked for prayer for her daughter, April**, who is suffering headaches, probably from allergies.
- **Sam** is trying to secure an internship in our area while he finishes his last semester at Corning.
- Pray for **Marilynn Patrick** who is battling metastatic colon cancer. She has been in and out of the hospital with afib despite the fact that she is wearing a "life vest" to control that condition.
- Pray that **Jackie** will have a smooth move from her home in Endicott to her new place in Athens, and that she can live comfortably there on her income.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** –stage 4 lung cancer. Lori has recently stopped chemo treatments, which were just prolonging her life, and is managing her own cancer recovery with prayer and a healthy diet. We are praying along with this faithful Christian lady and her family specifically for her cancer to be gone.
- **Erin Beiber** - metastatic breast cancer.
- Pray for **Kimberly Kithcart and family** after losing their home to a fire.
- Pray for our new **prayer ministry**.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.