

Giving (AB)

This is not a popular topic, but it is vital that we address it occasionally. The usual question is "How much should I give?" but some people question if it is necessary to give at all. I believe that once we answer the question, "Why should I give?" we will be able to answer all other questions about giving quite easily.

Our contributions are used to support the work of the church, which includes supporting local evangelists and missionaries.

1 Timothy 5:18 *For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."*

The early church used contributions to take care of large numbers of Christians who were remaining in Jerusalem after Pentecost (Acts 4:34,35), and there is instruction about taking care of widows in 1 Timothy 5:3-16. Thus, benevolence is a legitimate use of congregational funds.

Much can be said about how the funds are used but this does not answer the question, "Why should I give to the Church?" A good place to find the answer is in the book of Exodus. When the Israelites came out of Egypt and God gave them laws to live by, He also gave them a sacrificial system that required priests and a temple. The people were required to give animals for sacrifice in the Temple as part of their obligation to God under the Old Testament. In this way atonement was made for their sins and God could live among them. Atonement is a costly business and we know from the first time man sinned (Adam and Eve) that God clothed them with animal skins. All throughout history man's sins have been covered by other beings and Jesus Christ would ultimately serve as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Although this price is a free gift, it is true that God expects us to give back to Him, and the question we should ask is "How much is my salvation worth?" We learn about this principle in Exodus 30:12.

"When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall give a ransom for his life to the LORD when you number them, that there be no plague among them when you number them."

God commands all men over 20 years old to pay an offering of half a shekel for atonement. This was in addition to all the regular offerings and tithes. Atonement is a costly business and the people of God should avoid ever being asked the question, "Will a man rob God?" (Malachi 3:8). In Leviticus 13:15, God recalls how He passed over the firstborn of Israel when He put the firstborn in Egypt to death, but He says that Israel's firstborn He redeemed.

Atonement (redemption) is a costly business and the early church did not hesitate to show how precious their salvation was. They showed it in their living and in their giving, and God blessed them mightily. We know that he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly (2 Corinthians 9:6) but no amount of money can satisfy the cost of redemption and no Christian who understands that will ever think about robbing God.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

February 3, 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: *Commandments, Containers and Cobwebs*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-15

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 5th. We will meet at the building at 10.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** February 6th. 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.
- **Darlene and Doug** should be safely home now after several tire blow-outs, which slowed their return journey and was an added expense.
- **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!



- Arthur has completed a **financial report** and projected budget for 2019. Copies are available.
- **Arthur** has started a series of classes in preparation for **volunteering as a chaplain at the hospital** here in Sayre.
- **Arthur and Sandy** will be traveling to **Seattle, WA** on March 20th for their son, Kevan's retirement from the Air Force, along with a family reunion in the Cascade Mountains. **Paul** will be standing in for Arthur while he is gone.

PRAYERS

- Karen McCaffery, who visited with us last week, has a good friend in Packer (**Sharon Rumsey**) who is in serious condition with many causes, complicated by COPD. Please pray that the doctors there can determine how to help Sharon, and that both Arthur and Karen can share the gospel with her.
- **Dara has interviewed for a job** that she really wants and should know by this week if she does. Pray that she is successful.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.
- We are grateful that **Ted** had successful eye surgery to correct the blood buildup behind his eye.
- 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 barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.