

Prepare to Meet Your God – Glen Elliot

He became gravely ill, even to the point of death. So, the Great Physician made a house call in the person of Isaiah, the prophet. The diagnosis was not good. He was told that he would not recover and that he should go home and set his house in order. Regardless of age, such news is devastating. Each person handles grief in his or her own unique way. But grief is often accompanied by denial, anger, and depression. Hezekiah, the good king of Judah, about whom these remarks are offered “turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord” (Isaiah. 38:2). Of all that may have been done in response to the news of his imminent death, Hezekiah chose the best course of action. He prayed. Just as he prayed when Jerusalem was surrounded by the vastly superior force of the Assyrians under the leadership of Sennacherib, so also, he prays at the disquieting news of the prophet. In his prayer, he reminds the Lord of his faithfulness and how he had walked before Him in truth with all his heart, doing what was good and right in His sight (vs. 3). Then, he wept with great bitterness.

Weeping is not an indication of a weak faith, nor is a lack thereof an indication of a strong faith. Weeping in the face of heartache is a healthy human emotion. Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus (John. 11:35). The inspired writer of Hebrews reminds us that “He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety” (Hebrews. 5:7).

Prayer is a great solace to the grieving heart. Jesus invites us, saying, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew. 11:28). While this includes the burden that we feel as a result of godly sorrow over the guilt of our sins, it also extends in ever-widening circles to every burden that causes us pain. Peter reminds us to cast “all [our] anxiety on Him, because He cares for [us]” (1 Peter. 5:8 cf. Philippians. 4:6).

Prayer changes things—even the mind of God. Before Isaiah had even left the premises, God gave him instructions to return to the king with this message: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life” (vs. 5 cf. 2 Kings. 20:4). James tells us that “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16). Because prayer is plugging into the power of God, it has the power to add years to our life or life to our years. We know that “if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John. 5:14). In a manner of speaking, each has received a diagnosis of impending death. If the Lord should delay in His return, we know that “it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment...” (Hebrews. 9:27). Needed preparation is not so much the avoidance of the inevitable as the sure and certain reality of facing the judgment that is to follow. In view of this, Solomon concluded his twelve-chapter search for the true meaning of life with these words: “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person” (Ecclesiastes. 12:13). While offered in the context of national judgment, the words of Amos appropriately apply to our own responsibility in this life: “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel” (Amos 4:12)



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

August 4, 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 ***Apostles' Doctrine: Good for What Ails You***

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 Facebook

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Scripture: James 5:13-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** August 7th, either Arthur or Paul will continue with our study of Galatians.
- **Next Potluck: August 18th.**
- **5th Sunday Regional Singing: September 29th. Venue TBA.**



NEWS

- **Phyllis Bloom**, Jackie's sister who has been visiting as Jackie recovers from her fall, was baptized into Christ on Sunday afternoon. She will be leaving us tomorrow to return to Maryland where she lives with her daughter. We are working on finding her a church home there. **Please welcome our new sister to the family when you see her today.**
- **VBS is this Saturday!** As usual, our brethren from Kittanning, Camp Hill and other places as well as several of us here at Valley Cities will be knocking on doors all over the area, starting Monday, to invite kids to **VBS (Soldiers of God)** and to ask if anyone wants a Bible study or is looking for a place to worship. We have fliers to hand out and partners willing to go out with all who are willing.
- **Please plan to bake cookies or see what else you can do to help make this VBS a success! We will have a potluck barbecue here at the building on Sunday. Bring desserts and side dishes.**
- **Jerry** will be having surgery to remove all the cancer he has on both his scalp and his forearm on the 26th of August in Towanda.
- **Little Blair Huddleston**, 6-month-old twin granddaughter to Nadine and Mike, underwent open heart surgery on Thursday morning. The doctors said they were presented with a best-case scenario and they couldn't have asked for better results.

HAPPY LATE BIRTHDAY (July 30th) to TIM!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY (yesterday) to JACKIE!

PRAYERS

- **Pray for the success of our VBS, Soldiers of God, on Saturday, and for a good response to the door-knocking campaign.**
- **Thanksgiving for the positive responses** to visits to the contacts made during our recent door-knocking campaign while the Sojourners were here to help. Pray that this effort will bear fruit for the church here.
- Jerry's friend **Gail**, who gives him rides most Sundays, is sick.
- Pray for the success of **Jerry's** cancer surgery later this month.
- **Sue Davis**, wife of Bill Davis, who worships at Horseheads, had a severe stroke a few days ago. She is being treated at the hospital.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for **Blair Huddleston's** successful open-heart surgery.
- **Sandy** is giving thanks that her MRI showed a benign group of cells, and no cancer.
- **Continue to pray for Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor soon, **Andrea Lentz and Lori Kashorek**, who have lung cancer, **Erin Beiber**, who has metastatic breast cancer, **Ronnie Jones**, who is recovering from a stroke, and **Don Myers** who is suffering from back pain and the effects of his pain medication.
- Pray for those of us who have people in our families who are yet unsaved or have strayed.

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.