

What Was The Church Like In The Beginning?

Five aspects of early church life:

- 1) **Clarity:** The early church had a clear understanding of what their place in life was. They were not of this world and had been transferred to the Kingdom of God, which re-characterized their affections, loyalties, beliefs, and attitudes. They were citizens of Heaven, not of this world. They were very specific about what this meant in daily life. The Gospel of liberty freed them from bondage to the principalities of this world and united them to Christ as their ruler. Repentance was literally a change in life, not just something to be done "at church." No one coming to baptism would have been unclear as to what "conversion" meant.
- 2) **Conviction:** The early church was passionate about their loyalty to Christ as King, Lord, and Victor over the rulers, powers, and authorities. They were passionate about living as loyal citizens of the kingdom in a hostile world. Unlike many of the pagan religions, Christianity was not just a series of religious rituals, it was a lifestyle, a philosophy, and true template through which to view all of life.
- 3) **Openness:** The process of discipleship revealed that the church was open to outsiders. Among them were those who were "seeking" or "hearing" but not yet converted and fully incorporated into the church which happened at baptism.
- 4) **Compassion:** The church had a reputation for compassion. Unlike pagans, they cared for their own and even cared for outsiders. Ministry to the poor, caring for the outcast, adopting children that were discarded, caring for the elderly, and the equal status among slave and free, men and women, foreigner and native all as brethren stood in sharp contrast to the pagan culture around them. This was perhaps the strongest apologetic for the Christian faith.
- 5) **Nurture:** The church had very clear steps for outsiders, especially for those with a pagan background. The classifications, seeker, hearer, kneeler, and faithful made it clear what stage they were at and what kind of nurture they needed. The rigorous instruction, mentoring, and nurture firmly grounded believers in the faith in a world they were no longer of. They taught them how to live in two worlds with their loyalty clearly in the next.

John Telgren
Nebraska City Church of Christ
Nebraska City, NE



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
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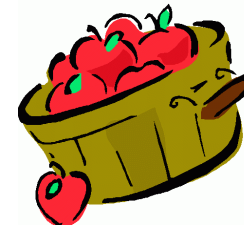
September 27, 2015

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.



- **Today's Sermon:** *Waiting for Armageddon?*
- Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.
- Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org

Scripture: Romans 8:35-37

Hymns: 991 This Is My Father's World; **989** Soon And Very Soon; **126** The Lord My Shepherd Is; **259** When This Passing World Is Done; **113** His Grace Reaches Me

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Men's Breakfast**, Saturday, October 3rd.
- **Ladies Class**, Tuesday, September 29th. Maxine will facilitate the discussion about pages 123-128 of our study book. Please invite friends!
- **Potluck Dinner**, Sunday, October 18th, following worship.



- **We have classes for children!** Cindy and Megan Patrick teach the primary class, and Sandy Barry teaches the middle school age kids.
- **We can use help!** Teachers, crafters, organizers and other kinds of helpers would be greatly appreciated. Let's make the best of having children amongst us as the result of the huge effort that went into the VBS!
- There is **food for those who need it** in the back room. Darlene Elsbree donated it from her father-in-law's pantry, which he asked her to clean out. There are **spices and herbs** that have been opened, as well, for anyone to take.

PRAYERS...

- Emily Barry passed her CDL road test! She starts driving school bus tomorrow. Prayer of thanks!
- Pray that our three newest brothers and sister in Christ continue to seek God's wisdom in their lives and that we can help.
- Pray for our children's classes that are getting started and for the teachers.
- Pray for Katie Grissies, the friend of Tiffany Cantrell from Prattville, AL, who has cancer. She had her baby a few weeks ago and is now going through an aggressive form of chemo, which is making her really ill.
- Pray for Amy Palmer, from Kittanning, and her new baby.
- Pray for Rhonda Washburn's friend, Brenda Clair's son, Phillip, of East Midfield, PA.
- Pray for Suzie Temple's sister-in-law, Martha Todd, with secondary breast cancer that has spread to her lungs and brain.
- Pray for Marilyn Patrick's health to continue to improve.
- Ron Moulton is in a lot of pain daily from his MD.

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.