

“The Age of Accountability”

Arthur Barry

Our understanding about baptism as taught in the Bible is very clear. However, once we arrive at the conviction that a person needs to be baptized to be saved (E.g. Mark 16:16), we find that we need to go further with our thought process. One area of major concern for us is the question of infant baptism. Once we reject that concept we then have to form our concept of how young people do fit into the scriptural pattern for salvation. The Bible does not address the question directly, but we reason from the scriptures that a newborn cannot have faith and, therefore, cannot be faithfully baptized. It might be better to say that a newborn does not need faith and therefore does not need to be baptized. The reason they do not come under that commandment is that they are not under the burden of sin. So at what point do they come under that burden and as a result need to be faithfully baptized?

We have a phrase “age of accountability” which applies to this transition that a child makes from the state of not being accountable for sin to the state of being accountable for sin. The phrase is not found in the Bible, however, and sometimes it may seem that we are making up our own rules about these things. In fact, nowhere in the New Testament will you find any discussion about how to treat children in regard to salvation. How do we know that God recognizes this “age of accountability”? Are we just following our own reasoning and filling in the blanks when we say that there will come a time when the child will have to be baptized?

There are indeed scriptures that do state this principle, and it might be good to look at them.

Deuteronomy 1:39 *Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.*

Isaiah 7:14-16 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.*

So, although the exact words are not in the Bible, the principle certainly is. There is a before and after sense about accountability for sin. If we are going to promote the teaching about the age of accountability it behooves us to point out these scriptures. Also, if you look at these scriptures in light of James 4:17, you will see that there is a case for accountability in the New Testament.

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James is talking about a specific sin where Moses and Isaiah are talking about the general principle.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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March 22, 2020

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: *Uncharted Territory*

(Via Facebook Livestream)

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** currently on hold.
- **Next Potluck:** April 19th. Depending on our status.
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day:** postponed until further notice.
- **Next Regional Singing: March 29th, 2020, @ Horseheads 4:30pm** Also depending on our status.
- **Sojourners-** July 27th- August 6th
- **VBS-** August 8th



NEWS

- **Ted's** Eustachian tube surgery has been postponed due to the corona virus epidemic. He now has to reapply to the VA for his surgery and wait all over again.
- **Arthur and Paul have planned a preaching schedule.** Arthur will preach the first two Sundays of the month and Paul will preach the third and fourth Sundays. If there is a 5th Sunday in a month, we will have a singing and praying service.
- **Our auditorium has a new look!** We have decorated with new large banners to honor Jesus, and Paul and Dawn have donated two large monitors to accommodate the showing of hymn music and teaching videos. Plans are underway to make this possible.
- **Paul has ordered wifi headphones** to enhance hearing for those who need this service.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for all those who are suffering with the Coronavirus, and for the families of those who have died.** Pray for protection for the elderly and others who are vulnerable.
- **Gail Westerhold**, Jerry's friend, is suffering with bad back pain which affects one of her legs. She has been using a cane or a walker. Please pray for pain and symptom relief.
- Pray for **Ted** as he will have to wait longer for the surgery on his Eustachian tubes to restore his hearing.
- **Rhonda Washburn** did not have stents placed near her heart on Monday. She does have some blockage and will probably have bypass surgery in the future.
- Pray for **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott** and their little son, **Jace**, who has brain trauma after suffering a seizure.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor. Pray for his daughter, Emily, who is a match for him and is willing to donate. Mark is near the top of the list now, so Emily may not need to have surgery.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer. Lori recently learned that she has two new brain tumors. We pray that they are operable as the last one was a few years ago. She has started radiation treatments, which should shrink those tumors.
- Pray for **Chris Beiber and sons, Nick and Nate**, as they adjust to life without Erin. Pray that we can stay in contact and encourage them to draw close to Jesus
- Prayers for the group effort **Bible reading** program! Help us all feel connected knowing we are all reading or listening to the same chapters in the Bible each day.
- Pray for **Jerry** as he's traveling and while he's staying with his son in Las Vegas. Pray for his time with his sons as he may never get a chance to see his youngest son again because his son has early onset Alzheimer's.

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.