

## Beauty That Is More Than Skin-Deep

Arthur Barry

Here is a story about the famous artist Auguste Renoir. One of his best friends, Henri Matisse, even though he was 30 years younger, was a constant companion of Renoir. During the last decade of the famous artist's life when he was confined to his home because of his crippling arthritis, Matisse visited him daily. In spite of his torturous pain, Renoir kept painting. In fact, he did so almost to his dying day. On one occasion when Renoir was struggling with every brush stroke, his friend Matisse said to him, "Auguste, why do you continue to paint when you are in such agony?" To which Renoir replied, "The beauty remains: the pain passes."

A study of the book of Job will cause us to confront our own view of pain and suffering. Famous literary people, such as Tennyson, expressed a fondness for the book of Job because of its poetic beauty. The faithful heart will find a beauty much deeper in these words that were written so long ago, however. James speaks of that beauty in James 5:11:

*As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered.*

*You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen*

*what the Lord finally brought about.*

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

I am not really familiar with Renoir's paintings but I have to say that I have more of an appreciation of the man since I heard this story about his determination to keep painting even though painting caused him so much pain. Job was suffering because of his faith in God. All he had to do to be relieved of his pain was to deny God, but he could not bring himself to do that. He said:

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes... I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!* Job 19:25-27

Life was hard enough for Renoir without painting, so why bother? Because, to him, he would not be living if he were not painting. Job, likewise, already had burdens because of his faith in God (Job 1:1-5), so why bother going through the intense personal suffering? Because to him he would not be living if he were not trusting God.

Later on, Jesus validated Job's faith when He endured the cross for the sake of the joy. (Hebrews 12:2). He also knew that the pain would pass but the beauty would remain.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

May 24, 2020

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon:** *Are You Rolling in the Dough?*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](http://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Scripture Reading:** John 6:35-48

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: May 27<sup>th</sup>**, live streamed and actual at the building at 6:30. Check the **Valley Cities Church of Christ Facebook page** for information.
- **Next Potluck:** TBD
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day:** postponed until further notice.
- **Next Regional Singing: May 31<sup>st</sup> (if possible) @ Horseheads**
- **Sojourners-** July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 6<sup>th</sup>
- **VBS-** August 8<sup>th</sup>



### NEWS

- **Please let Sandy know if you would like some N95 masks or if you would like some homemade cloth face masks.**
- **Richard** was in hospital here in Sayre last week because of trouble breathing. He tested negative for the virus and was released on Friday. He plans on being with us for worship this morning.
- **G.K. Pennington**, who used to preach at Endwell, NY, and baptized Arthur, Sandy, and Darlene, has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. It is an aggressive form of cancer and he will begin treatments soon.
- **Jeff Wyeth**, preacher at Tunkhannock, has been in the VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre since Tuesday. He had suspected covid19 virus, but he tested negative. He had an extremely high temperature, double pneumonia, and septic blood. He has only just started improving but seems to be on the mend.
- **We are now meeting in the building for worship on Sunday and for Bible study on Wednesday! We still publish our worship on livestream to allow the people who have been joining with us from all over the world to participate. God is good!**

## 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. Pray that these hard times will be brought to a fast end.
- **Thank God for all the places where the corona virus seems to be receding and things are getting back to normal.**
- **Gail Westerhold**, Jerry's friend, is suffering with bad back pain which affects one of her legs.
- Pray for **Ted** as he waits for the surgery on his Eustachian tubes to restore his hearing.
- Pray for **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott** and their little son, **Jace**.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor. Mark is near the top of the list now, for which we are grateful.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer. Lori is dealing with two brain tumors, for which she has undergone radiation therapy.
- Pray for **Chris Beiber and sons, Nick and Nate, that we can stay in contact** and encourage them to draw close to Jesus.
- 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. Please pray that we can have some contact with him, as we don't have an address for him.
- Pray for **Jeff Wyeth** as he recovers in hospital, and for Teresa as she has to stay home alone and isn't able to visit him.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his cancer in the months to come.
- Prayers of thanksgiving as **Richard Miller** is well enough to come home from the hospital.
- **Cora Rivera's best friend Sam**, as well as her mother have come down with covid19.

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.