

Taking Discipline Seriously

Arthur Barry

Discipline in any endeavor requires that you take that endeavor seriously. Professional football players demonstrate that they take the game seriously every time they are on the field. You might say they are “mature” football players. If they do not demonstrate that they take the game seriously they are dropped from the team and, in fact they are expected to be “mature” and “disciplined” in between games as well. If they do not show up on time for practices, or put in the effort when they are there, or if they let other things in their life hinder their performance, they will not be picked for the next game. They are viewed as needing to grow up a bit more. Taking things seriously is the mark of adulthood. It is not that adults do not know how to have fun, but they must never forget their responsibilities.

The saints at Corinth received a rebuke from the apostle Paul because they were not taking their responsibilities seriously. He described them as “carnal” or “fleshly”.

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? (1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

I don't imagine that any NFL coach, worth his salt, will be delivering such a pep-talk to his players. Any pro-footballer, who does not behave in a human, fleshly way is likely to get himself crushed. He is immature – he simply does not take football seriously enough. The Corinthians were immature – they did not take the Body of Christ seriously enough. They might well make the cut for a football team but in 1 Corinthians 11:29 Paul says they are actually endangering themselves by being too human.

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

They did not take the body / church (Ephesians 1:22,23) seriously, which means they did not take Jesus seriously. At the Lord's Table they filled their stomachs but left with their hearts empty (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). Their attitude was to take care of themselves first; that's the easy way. They did the same thing when it came time to worship God with their spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14). Paul, again, tells them they need to grow up. (1 Corinthians 13:11). In a child's world there is always a grown up around (at least there should be) to take care of things so that they can play, learn, and grow. As Christians we must accept responsibility for each other. We must strive for the maturity that builds up the church and that means we must take Jesus and His church seriously. That is not the easy way, but it is Jesus' way.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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July 19, 2020

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: *What's on Your Bucket List?*

Paul Cowles will deliver the sermon today.

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

Scripture Reading: John 4: 21-24

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: July 22nd**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. Last week we started Micah. We will be continuing **Micah** this week.
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: August 30th (if possible) venue TBA**



- Doug Kashorek, preacher in Plattsburgh, NY, has posted an update on his wife, Lori. Lori has suffered weakened muscles making her unable to walk or sit up or stand on her own due to extended steroid use to reduce swelling around her brain tumors. The steroid did not help, but also left her with a fatty liver, high blood sugar requiring insulin, and blood clots in her lungs and brain bleeds. She also has a rapid heartbeat. Doug is working hard to care for Lori and requested prayers from us.
- The church at **Horseheads** have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of their **new preacher, David Istre** and his wife Mary and their two young children from their long, arduous trip from China via Hong Kong and Korea. They have arrived, safe but tired, and are finished with their 14-day quarantine tonight. David has already been preaching on Zoom.
- **Paul** will be preaching today.
- **Ruthie** has had both of her cataract surgeries now and has been recovering nicely.
- **Ted, Jennifer and Ethan** are on vacation in NC for another week. We pray for a safe and healthy time for them.
- **Belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ruthie- last Thursday, July 16th.**

PRAYERS

- Pray for all of us as individual states are opening for business and gatherings in stages. Pray about schools.
- We are thankful to see our brothers and sisters in Christ as we return to worshipping together here in our beautiful building.
- **Sandy's friend Zhimin from China** is in quarantine after flying home from Morocco where she was visiting her husband. Her father was ill with pancreatic cancer, so she wanted to help take care of him. He died last week, and she has to remain in quarantine until Wednesday. She missed the funeral and is all alone.
- **Emily Barry and her son Aidan** are in the process of moving back to NY from ME. Pray for success getting a place to live in the Albany area. Emily is thankful for her job offers. Aidan would like prayers for a job also.
- Pray for **Jackie**, who has been suffering whole body pain from arthritis and has been prescribed Prednesone.
- We are thankful for **Ruthie's** good recovery from the eye surgery.
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer. She is scheduled for surgery 8/13 to remove another mass on her lungs and also a kidney stone.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek**, wife of Doug, who preaches in Plattsburgh. She has lung cancer and is also dealing with two brain tumors.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his esophageal cancer in the months to come. He is undergoing chemo and radiation both at the same time.
- **Bill Dayton**, preacher in Kentucky is suffering from severe depression.
- **We are thankful for a safe trip for the Istre family as they begin their new work at the church in Horseheads.**
- **Doug Kashorek has asked for prayers for himself and his wife, Lori as they deal with her serious breakdown in health due to her struggle with lung cancer which caused tumors on her brain.**

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.