

Friend Or Enemy?

By Joe Slater

At first the Galatians Christians counted Paul as a friend – indeed, as a beloved brother who had led them to the Lord. They would have done anything to help him, even to the extreme of plucking out their own eyes, had that been possible (Galatians 4:15). Now, however, false teachers had slandered Paul, and the fickle Galatians had fallen for it. The frustrated apostle asked in the next verse, “Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?” How tragically foolish to treat a faithful proclaimer of truth as an enemy!

But it was nothing new. Centuries beforehand, God sent Elijah to rebuke King Ahab for murdering Naboth to steal his vineyard. Ahab reproached the prophet thusly: “Have you found me, O my enemy?” (1 Kings 21:20). Truth be told, Elijah was Ahab’s best friend. Warning the king of impending judgment gave him opportunity to repent. But evil Ahab and his wicked wife, Jezebel preferred to kill the messenger!

Even before the time of Ahab, the apostate King Saul attempted to murder his faithful warrior David despite having sworn in the name of the Lord not to do so. Saul reprimanded his own daughter for hiding David, referring to him as “my enemy” (1 Samuel 19:17). Like Ahab and the Galatians, Saul’s own sins twisted his mind into treating a true friend as an enemy.

Loyal servants of God will not simply tell you what you want to hear. Because they are your friends, they will tell you the truth.

Do not expect worldly people to appreciate you when you speak the truth. They may well see you as their enemy! “If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before it hated you” (John 15:18).



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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June 6, 2021

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: To Us Has Been Sent This
Message of Salvation**

Paul will be preaching today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 13:1-4

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Teachings from the Psalms by Paul, with complementary songs.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: June 9th, at the building, 6:30pm-** We are studying the Gospel according to Matthew. Come at 6 and eat with us before the lesson if you like.
- ❖ **Sojourners: Mike and Nadine Huddleston, Larry and Kay Little, and Doug and Sandy Zimmerman** hope to be here by June 18th or just after to start work on the 21st and will remain here until July 8th.
- ❖ **Potluck:** Sunday, June 20th. Sojourners will be with us then.



- Our building is in need of a good cleaning and organizing of materials before the Sojourners arrive to help us with our church activities. Please think of ways that you would be willing to help.
- **Gail Westerhold had surgery a week and a half ago to remove the cancer on her left kidney. The entire kidney was removed and Gail is recovering well.**
- Thank you to Paul and Ted for driving out to pick Jerry up for Bible class and worship while Gail is indisposed.
- **Paul and Arthur had a profitable meeting with David Istre of Horseheads on Tuesday. They would like to continue to meet with regional preachers on a monthly basis to share ideas and encourage each other.**
- **There will be a workshop conducted by the Sojourners on “Life after Covid” in the church on June 26th here at the Valley Cities building. We have invited area churches to join us and hope to brainstorm ideas of how to go forward.**

PRAYERS

- **Pray for Zachary Cowles as he is deployed now for two years.**
- **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning has lung cancer again. He thanks us for praying for him.
- Pray for **Gail Westerhold** as she recuperates from her cancer surgery.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul’s.** She has stage 3 lung cancer.
- **Arthur’s younger sister, Sue,** has metastatic breast cancer and is in need of prayer.
- Please pray for **Arthur’s brother Chris** from England, who has Alzheimer’s Disease. Pray that he can decide to be a Christian while he is still able to understand.
- **We are thankful for the time of fellowship and praise we enjoyed last Sunday at Horseheads for the Regional Singing.**
- **Winni Carlisle, one of our sojourners in 2019, has breast cancer.** Please pray for her.
- **Jonathan Russel** who worships at Ithaca is in poor health and in need of prayer.
- **There was a request in our Prayer Box for Kenneth who is in need of disability income.**

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.