

The Crux

Arthur Barry

The crux of the matter is another way of saying “the heart of the matter”, or “the main thing.” Crux is Latin for “cross”

When one utters the words “The Cross” nobody asks, “Which cross?” It is understood that, although thousands have died on crosses throughout history, “The Cross” refers to only one of those and that would be Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Son of Man and Son of God. Jesus is the crux of the matter, the main thing, the clue that unravels the mystery. But why is that true? When we consider Jesus as the crux of the matter, He confronts us with what has been described as “the paradox of paradise.” That is the challenge of comprehending His divine nature, and it proves to be too much of a challenge for many people who consider themselves to be Christians. It was certainly a hard pill to swallow for the religious leaders of His day and here are two references that cut to the chase.

Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5:18

The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

John 10:33

If you were accused of blasphemy for making yourself equal with God and were to endure the sufferings that Jesus suffered, how would you feel if the accusation was false? Wouldn't you be denying the charge? At any point in those proceedings that led to Jesus dying on the cross He could have called it all off by simply denying the charge that He was making Himself equal with God. Why did He keep silent? Because He knew the ultimate declaration of His deity would come through His resurrection from the dead.

(He) was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 1:4

The conclusion that Jesus was fathered by Almighty God is rejected by many people who prefer relating to Him only as “Son of Man.” Sadly, they are the ones who blaspheme the Holy Spirit and for that there is no forgiveness. (Matthew 12:31) But for the cross, Jesus would have been just a man, and you and I would be without hope, condemned to suffer the fate of sinful man, cut off from God. But the crux of the matter, the truth, is that because of the cross we can now participate in sonship with God.

Romans 8:14 *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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October 10, 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: Don't Quit Now

Paul is preaching today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 18:12-17

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

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** October 13th, at the building (or join us on Zoom), 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** **NEXT WEEK!** October 17th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, October 12th here at the building.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Chapter 2, Day 1. There are still a couple books available for \$18 each.
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing-** October 31st. Where: Horseheads, NY



- We have 50 MAGI boxes! Sandy has a few things that can be purchased from Dollar Tree if you want to take a look. Feel free to donate anything on the list, but we can concentrate on **toothpaste, toothbrushes (with plastic holder), soap (with plastic box) and combs or brushes** right now. We will be packing our boxes for the 5-7-year-old age group. If you find things on the list at a good price in stores near you, please let us know. Some people have made **money donations** as well.
- Next Sunday marks 7 years that we began meeting as the **Valley Cities church of Christ in Sayre, PA**. Soon afterwards the Endless Mountains church of Christ began meeting in Tunkhannock, PA as part of the same work. We will celebrate at our potluck!

PRAYERS

- **Pray for the people of Afghanistan as there is turmoil while the Taliban takes control of the country. Pray for the situation in Haiti and for the confusion at our southern border.**
- Pray for **Jackie**. She is dealing with edema of the legs and feet. She also has congestive heart failure. Pray for Darlene as she cares for her.
- **Prayer of thanksgiving for Paulette's friend Michele**, who is finally improving from her bout with covid after a couple of setbacks.
- **Miki's cousin by marriage, Steve Noble**, needs a lung transplant. Please pray for him and his wife Donna.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer), **Dan Myers** (several health concerns), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's).
- **Bob Wilkinson** is recovering well from injuries sustained when a tree fell on him. He is back at work.
- **Pray for Robin Barry** who has started his new job in Lake Charles, LA and is missing his family back in AK.
- **Steve and Amy's neighbor's sister, JoAnne**, has cancer and has been placed on Hospice care.
- **Pray for our MAGI box project.**
- **Pray for the Heart to Heart, Home to Home Annual National Door-knocking Day yesterday. Pray that people we invited will choose to worship and study with us.**
- **Pray for a safe trip for Steve and Amy** as they travel this week to meet friends and see the fall colors.
- **Sue Agati's 86-year-old brother Philip Bonczek broke his leg and then contracted covid from his roommate at the convalescent home he was sent to. Several of us know Sue from Ithaca or Horseheads churches.**

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.