

Read Your Bible; Tune into Life

Arthur Barry

The daily Bible reading program has begun with this new year of 2022 and we have read the first **four** chapters of Genesis as of today (Jan 2). In less than 30 minutes we have taken in the creation of the universe and the fall of man, and the effects of that fall leading to acts of murder. Our modern society expends huge amounts of resources in time and money trying to delve into the causes of strife and conflict that plague mankind. Physical and emotional turmoil prevails in our world and nobody is untouched by it. It only makes sense that we apply ourselves to finding remedies and do whatever it takes to eradicate the ills that mar our existence here on Earth, right?

The answers are right there in the Bible and, as we have said, it does not take much time at all to cut through all of man's meddling and get to the heart of the matter. Sadly, Like Adam and Eve, mankind will always tend to "bark up the wrong tree" and take matters in our own hands. When will we accept that we will never have enough resources on Earth to make things right? All the plagues of mankind are caused by sin. Before sin became a reality Adam and Eve had no worries and gave no thought even to such things as clothing (Genesis 3:1-7). Can you imagine such a life? After sin, however, death came upon them and they lived in fear. Everything has been a struggle ever since then. All those things God had provided to care for mankind now needed mankind to care for them (Genesis 3:17-19). Driven from the Garden of Eden they now were forced to work the land in order to survive (3:23). Things were to get worse, however, once Cain murdered his brother (4:1-7). The ground, even though Cain would be working it, was no longer to yield its strength (4:12). It seems that once blood was shed upon the ground (4:10) the ground itself turned against mankind. It is interesting that God's initial plan for mankind included the command to "subdue" the earth, along with the command to be fruitful (Gen 1:28). The command to subdue the earth was not included, however, when God repeated those instructions to Noah after the flood (Gen 8:17; 9:1, 7). Mankind had been subdued by sin and was no longer capable of subduing the earth.

I can assure you that these are not problems that can be solved by the Environmental Protection Agency. As long as we refuse to accept God's testimony about sin, we will never look for God's power to heal us from the effects of sin. A few minutes with the Bible will get a person's head on straight about these things. Better still, a few minutes with one of us who trust God's Word and who are willing to teach it.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

January 2, 2022

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: Are You a Christian in Spirit and Truth?

Paul is preaching today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 19:8-10

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:** January 5th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew, chapter 26.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** January 16th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, January 4th, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Lesson 5, Day 1.
- ❖ **5th Sunday Singing- January 30th at Ithaca.**



- **It's time once again for our annual business meeting to elect trustees and affirm our bylaws. Current trustees are Ted Chacona (3-year), Jerry Lowe (2-year), Tim Bump (1-year). This year the 2-year and 1-year positions are up for re-election. Our meeting will take place on Sunday, January 9th, following worship.**
- **We have been gifted with an amount of money for this year that almost makes up for what we lost from the Antioch Initiative.**
- **The new church directories are finished and will be distributed next Sunday after worship, before the annual meeting.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

PRAYERS

- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's), **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer), **Darlene's friend Connie** (advanced stage lung cancer).
- Pray that **our congregation can step up to supply some of the support** we have recently lost from the Antioch Initiative, which was responsible for starting this work in Sayre 7 years ago. **We are thankful for the help** we have been promised for this coming year.
- **Arthur is still waiting** for an appointment for a PT scan. He is expecting to hear about it by Wednesday. The scan must be clear before he can be scheduled for surgery. Pray that this can be done soon. We pray for a full recovery.
- **Dawn's niece, Bobbie's, husband, Arthur Hardison** is now off the ventilator. Please pray for him and his family as they wait for a room to come open in a rehab center near them.
- **Dan Myers** has developed a lump in his lungs, but he has decided not to seek treatment at this time. Please pray for his good health.
- **Steve and Amy's friend Jeff Ardeti** is paralyzed after developing Guillian-Barre following, but not necessarily a result of, covid. Pray for his recovery.

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.