

Are You Willing to Pay the Price?

By Al Behel

Following a concert a lady approached the great pianist, Padereswski, and said, "I would give my life to play like that." Paderewski answered, "I did."

On an average, it takes 50,000 hours to make a concert pianist. That's 19 years, 113 days, at 8 hours a day. Some are willing to pay the price; others are not. In other words, one must give his or her life to be a great pianist.

I can't help wondering what it takes to become a real disciple of Jesus. Our religious world makes it easy. No major sacrifice of time or energy. No serious study of Scripture. No exercising of one's mental and spiritual muscles to achieve maturity in Christ. Just sign up and attend a few church services and give a little money. That's all that is required.

Is that really true? Is discipleship easy? When I read the words of Jesus there seems to be a lot more involved. He speaks of denying oneself and taking up a cross to follow Him. He speaks of persecution and suffering, of selling all that we have. He says we must seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. He even goes so far as to say we must love others the way He loves us. He offers no salvation without baptism and a cross (Matthew 28:18-20). A cross is a place to die. Are you willing to pay the price?

Discipling others requires much time and effort, too. Some active personal evangelism leaders have estimated that it may take more than 50 hours to lead an interested individual to become a true follower of Christ. Are you willing to make yourself an instrument through whom the Lord can reach the hearts of those around you. Are you willing to pay the price?

He said, "No one comes to the Father but by me." There is no other way, no other option. He is the only way, and truth, and life (John 16:6) And there is salvation in no other name (Acts 4:12). Are you willing to pay the price of being His disciple?



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 9, 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: Two Precious Gifts from Heaven

Arthur is preaching today.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:40-47

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 12th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew, chapter 27.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** January 16th. **NEXT WEEK**
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, January 11th, 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 2.
- ❖ **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 **TODAY, following worship.**
- **John Alexander, age 47, passed away last Thursday morning at Packer Hospital from complications of Covid. John was the son-in-law of Diana DeLosa, close friend and neighbor of Miki's, who has visited us at worship. He and Diana's daughter, Michelle, have 3 children, 2 still at home.**

PRAYERS

- 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.
- Pray for our **Annual Meeting** this morning, that we can comply with State requirements and still glorify God in the process.
- **Arthur** has a phone consultation with his surgeon scheduled for tomorrow to discuss a new kind of scan and talk about whether surgery is still a likely option for him. Please pray that he can still have surgery and that we can have peace of mind about his treatment plans.
- **Dan Myers** has developed a spot on his lungs. He will be seeing his doctor and having further tests to determine how to treat it. Please pray for his good health.
- **Please pray for comfort and peace for the family of John Alexander in the event of his rather sudden death.**
- **Steve and Amy's friend Jeff Arditti, who is from NC, is paralyzed after developing Guillian-Barre following, but not necessarily a result of, Covid. He is in the hospital in Chicago where members of a church there have visited him. Pray for his recovery and that Christians there can share the gospel with Jeff and his family.**
- 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** (stage 4 lung cancer)
 - Dawn's niece's husband, **Arthur** (waiting for a room in rehab to recover from Covid).

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.