

The Christian's First Love

By Mike Riley

When people first become Christians, they usually are very excited about being saved. They want to go out and teach the whole world. They are burning with zeal. They love the Lord and want to share Him with everyone (cf. Acts 9:17-22).

A true disciple has given himself to the Lord, to be taught and used in His service (Luke 14:33; Gal. 2:20; Romans 12:1-2). Such a one will never grow weary in well doing (Gal. 6:9). He will remain fervent in spirit in serving Christ (Romans 12:11).

In the first century, the Christians at Ephesus somehow had lost their first love (putting Christ first in all their considerations and setting their chief concerns on Him and on spiritual things – Colossians 3:1-2). They taught the truth (Revelation 2:2) and would not tolerate false teachers. They patiently persevered and did not grow weary (Revelation 2:3). They labored in His cause, yet they had lost their first love (Revelation 2:4).

We see that people can teach the truth and perform the acts of worship outwardly in a correct way, but still not do these things with the proper attitude of heart.

Every act of obedient service to the Lord must be done out of a genuine love for Him (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) or it is useless. If we teach or do anything in service to Him only as a sense of duty and not because we truly love Him, it will not be acceptable to Him. This is truly an important lesson for Christians to learn.

Another lesson we must learn is that we must serve the Lord by “abiding” in His teaching: “If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed” (John 8:31).

Finally, let us fully understand that “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9-10).



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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March 6, 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: **The Devil is in the Details**

Arthur will be preaching this morning.

Scripture Reading: **Lamentations 3:37-41**

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:** March 9th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing a series of lessons on **Signs of the Times**.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday March 20th.**
Theme: SPRING
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, March 8th, 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 7, Day 1.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing- May 29th, here at Valley Cities.**



MAGI BOX NEEDS:

Keep checking the list in the front foyer on the bulletin board. We don't have any boys or girls' underwear or little boys' shorts yet... **EIGHT WEEKS TO GO**

We had a wonderful time of fellowship and great food at last week's potluck meal! It was good to see everyone again. Let's all get excited about our next potluck in two weeks! Remember, it is also Bring-a-Friend Sunday. Bring those friends! <3

PRAYERS

- **We continue to praise God** for answering our prayers because **Dave Laton** is expected to make a full recovery from leukemia!
- **Lauri Loomis, friend of Amy and Steve's** who worked with them at the food pantry has passed away from cancer. Please pray for comfort for her family.
- **Jerry Lowe** was in the hospital again last week with heart problems. He has been diagnosed with a congenital heart condition. Please pray for Jerry.
- **Prayers of thanks for a successful surgery for Arthur.** There is still cause for concern regarding the cancer, so please continue to pray. His next visit with the surgeon will be on the 30th by phone.
- **Dan Myers** will have a lung scan on Thursday to see about a mass. Pray for a good outcome.
- Please pray for **Pat Gutherie** because his chemo treatments for lung cancer are becoming hard to bear.
- Pray for:
 - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer, tumor on liver) on immunotherapy.
 - **Gail Westerhold** (problems with remaining kidney)
 - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
 - **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant)
 - **Arthur's brother Chris** in England (Alzheimer's) Pray that Arthur and his sisters will be able to visit Chris before too long.
 - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer) Her cancer has spread to other organs in her body.
 - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer)

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.