

Hold That Beginning! *Arthur Barry*

It is not very common to tell someone to remain at the beginning of something, is it? If there is a beginning, then there must be an end as well, right? It seems safe to assume that if a person makes a beginning of something it is because he wants to see the end. But can a person have both the beginning and the end at the same time? God can do that because He is eternal, the Beginning and the End; but can we?

For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end. Hebrews 3:14.

I can remember running the 440-yard race in school. The starting line was the finish line. Technically, you could be at the beginning and at the end without moving. But what about the race? Can you imagine a stadium full of people watching twenty or so of the world's best athletes standing on the start/finish line not wanting to begin the race for fear of not being first over the finish line? The starter runs out of blanks for his starting pistol, but no one is willing to start!

It is tempting to stay on the start/finish line, isn't it? And, if we are in Christ, we are at the beginning and the end, so why bother racing? We run against the evil one and against his schemes and wiles. We run for the salvation and hope of others. The world needs to witness the race. They need to see what happens when a Christian falls down, how others who are racing come alongside and help him back on his feet. The world needs to see how spiritual athletes help one another to the finish line.

And so God tells us to keep the confidence we had at the starting line and that is how we will make it to the finish line. Remember how real Jesus is and push on. Feel again the excitement and the hope and run harder. Drink in His love and power again and be refreshed.

It helps to know that the One who began us is the One who will finish us, and that He runs with us always. When you run the LORD's race you are always on the finish line when you line up on His starting line. So, keep the confidence you began with till the end...and RUN!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

May 22, 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: Here's Mud in Your Eye.

Arthur will be preaching this morning.

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-6

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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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:** May 25th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will begin Chapter 7 of Hebrews.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** June 19th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class -Tuesday the 24th Lesson 8, Day 3.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing- May 29th, here at Valley Cities.** That is **NEXT WEEK** at 4:30pm.
- ❖ **Sojourners here- July 30th – August 11th**



MAGI BOXES

50 boxes for ages 5-7 are on their way to Nashville, TN to Healing Hands, Intl. Headquarters. Since we want to help where help is needed most, we plan to pack 80 boxes next time and aim them for age 11+. Mark Hatfield said all the other ages have boxes to spare, but age 11+ always runs out.

- Those who shared what lessons they are interested in from the Sojourner ladies have had their preferences relayed to Kay Little, who will share with the other ladies. They will prepare a worthwhile program for the ladies here. They will also be offering a Saturday program open to the public ladies on raising young children. We will work with them on that, providing refreshments, etc.
- Valley Cities is hosting the 5th Sunday Regional Singing next Sunday at 4:30pm. Please plan to bring salads, sandwiches, chips, pickles, cookies, cake or whatever will help us show hospitality to our guests.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for the people of Ukraine!** Also pray for those who are helping them. There are also Christians in Russia who need prayer.
- **Nathaniel Cowles** is sick with Covid.
- **Steve and Amy's friend Sharon Morningstar** has been diagnosed with lupus.
- **Dan Myer** will be having SBRT (radiation) on his lungs soon. Please pray for him.
- **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave** has had a recurrence of liver cancer. Please keep both Doug and Dave in prayer.
- **Mary Wallenbeck** of Horseheads is recovering from a seizure. She is also dealing with Parkinson's Disease and Leukemia. Please pray for her and for her husband John.
- **Miki's friend Val Freeman** had cancer surgery on Thursday.
- Pray for:
 - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer, tumor on liver)
 - **Deb Barnhardt** (lung cancer)
 - **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer, chemo)
 - **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)
 - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer)
 - **Jim Sexton** (stage 4 esophageal cancer)
 - **Jerry Lowe** (recovering from heart attack)

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.