

## Victim Or Victor?

By Joe Slater

Crime victims want justice. We should understand. They don't always get it. That's a sad reality. People in this sinful world seldom behave fairly, especially in matters that don't rise to the level of criminality. Even God's own people sometimes fail to treat each other equitably.

How should you handle unfair treatment? Some play up their status as a victim, wallowing in self-pity and feeding on the sympathy of any who will listen to their tale of woe. Others seek revenge despite the fact that vengeance belongs to God (Romans 12:19).

Joseph chose a different approach, that of a victor. Victimized by his envious brothers, then by Potiphar's designing wife, and once more by the Pharaoh's forgetful chief butler, Joseph maintained confidence in God and made the best of his less-than-ideal situation. We find not the first hint of self-pity or personal vengeance in him. Long before Peter wrote 1 Peter 5:6, Joseph embodied what the apostle said: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."

Who has been victimized more than Jesus? The Sanhedrin, the Roman authorities, and even one of His chosen disciples made Jesus the victim of all victims! Yet He gained the ultimate victory in spite of everything. Far from seeking vengeance, Jesus prayed for the very ones murdering Him and "committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 2:23).

Choose to be a victor, not a victim!



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

Oct 16, 2022

**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

**Today's Sermon: Have You Never Read?**

Arthur will be preaching today.

**Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur is teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm October 19, on Zoom, Paul is teaching from James.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday October 18, Lesson 12, Day 3, 10am on Zoom.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing- October 30<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm here at Valley Cities.**



**Today is our October Bring-a-Friend Sunday! Following worship, please join us for our monthly potluck dinner downstairs in the fellowship hall.**

**Paul is in Florida visiting with his son Zach, who is home on leave. He is also spending time with his little granddaughters, Zach's girls.**

**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 we will be hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing. We will need food to feed our guests after we sing.**

## PRAYERS

- **Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine!** Remember to also pray for the people in **Russia**, especially for the church.
- **Doug Elsbree has Covid, and Darlene is also feeling sick, although she and her mom, Jackie have tested negative so far. Please pray that they can all feel better soon.**
- **Darlene** will have an MRI on her brain on October 28<sup>th</sup> to see why she is having headaches.
- **Jackie** will be leaving on November 11<sup>th</sup> for Oklahoma to stay with daughter Vicki for a few months over the winter.
- **Gay Lynn Testut** from the Ithaca church had Covid last week and is still feeling weak and congested.
- Pray for these people:
  - **Mike Walls** (frontal lobe dementia), and his wife Carrie and the family. Mike is planning on heading back out to L.A. in a few weeks for more surgery.
  - **Henry Rounsville** will be starting radiation therapy soon. Also pray for Henry's sister Caroline.
  - **Dan Myers (lung cancer)**
  - **Jerry Lowe (connection with a church in Las Vegas)**
  - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer, spread to brain) They are trying targeted radiation.
  - **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave Merrill-** (liver cancer) He has now quit work.
  - **Steve Noble** (lung transplant) having problems with the transplant.
  - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer) not out of the woods yet, but lymph system appears clear of cancer.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.