

Sand Castles

You've watched it, too. I know I'm not the first or only person who has seen it. But there is a lesson in it that we both may have overlooked.

There are some children on a beach. They're playing and giggling -- building sand castles all the while. They seem so intent on the project. You get amused at how meticulous and careful they are with crumbly corners and towers. The looks on their faces as they screw their mouths around and stick out their tongues make you smile. Their resolute concentration on the task is priceless.

Then a big wave begins building and starts toward shore. But the kids don't panic. Instead, they do the strangest thing. They jump to their feet, scream with delight, and watch the torrent of water wash away their creations. There is no panic. No sadness. No bitterness. Even children know the inevitable end of sand castles. They are neither surprised nor angry about what has happened.

You and I should be so wise. The stuff of this world is about as lasting and durable as children's sand castles on the beach. Yet we grownups can get so caught up in it, defensive of it, and depressed over the loss of it.

God didn't create you to be famous, get rich, live in the biggest house, or drive the fanciest car. He created you for his glory. He put you in the world to love people and do holy things. Your destiny is not bound up in physical things, but spiritual. So living to be a hundred is far less important than living well -- even if for a short time. Beautifying your body is far less urgent than purifying your soul.

Children know that their sand castles are brief joys destined to disappear with an incoming tide. So they don't fret as the waves approach. They watch their creations get swept away without shedding tears. Again, we should be so wise.

Everything about this life is fleeting and perishable. The incoming wave of human mortality is going to sweep it all away. Like sand castles, nothing done for the sake of this world can last. Only what we do for eternity will survive.

What would the loss of your job or business do to you? What if your house was lost to fire or storm? What if a strange pain sent you to your physician and led to the discovery that you have only a few weeks to live? These things really do happen to people, you know. We are all as vulnerable as sand castles.

Life is God's gift. Revel in every good thing. But as you enjoy your creations in the sand, just remember not to get overly attached to them.

You think about it!

Kevin Ravnor



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

February 21, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.



Today's Sermon: *Are You Saved, Secure and Satisfied?*

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

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org**

Scripture: Hebrews 6:1-12

Hymns: 684 Nearer My God To Thee; **549** There Is Sunshine In My Soul;
276 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus;
472 A Shelter In Time Of Storm;
662 All To Jesus I Surrender

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class**, Tuesday, February 16TH. Darlene will lead the lesson on the sixth chapter of Esther.
- Potluck Dinner- TODAY!
- Spiritual Giftedness Seminar- April 23-25. Doug Hamilton from the Camp Hill church will present this program here at Valley Cities.
- Arthur and Sandy are planning to attend the lectureship at Ohio Valley University from April 3-6. This is an opportunity to advertise the outreach efforts that are on-going in Northeast, PA.



- Our church received a substantial gift of money from a group of individuals in the Camp Hill, PA church. Some of that was used to purchase a flat screen TV, which is mounted on the front wall of the auditorium.
- An exploratory team from the Antioch Initiative will be coming up to Tunkhannock, PA the first week in May to start making plans to plant a church there. Arthur has been scouting out possible meeting places for the group who will be gathering there.
- There will be a campaign in June to contact all interested people in the Tunkhannock area for Bible studies and worship.
- Linda Hicks has moved out of the apartment she shared with Felicity and Chadevin and Matthew and into an apartment with

PRAYERS...

- Darla Towell, Katie Barry's aunt, from the church in Soldotna, AK, has cancer in her liver and pancreas. She is not expected to recover, so has requested to be on comfort care.
- Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the church in Plattsburg, has had a recurrence of lung cancer. She has had her second round of chemo and plans to continue her teaching job as long as she is able. She has asked for prayers.
- Please pray for the outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA in the spring.
- Linda Hicks has a little 4-year-old neighbor girl, Rayne, who was born without a chemical in her brain that controls levels of excitement. Pray that her doctors can remedy the situation, as her heart could stop if left untreated.
- Maxine Schiel will be managing hip and knee pain with over the counter pain killers as the X rays showed she does still have cartilage in her joints.
- Emily Barry, of Palmer, AK, has an irritated esophagus which is making it difficult to eat. She has a condition of the esophagus and celiac disease, and will undergo a scope procedure on the 26th to see what is happening. She is currently planning on moving back to this area with her son, Aidan.
- Our family and friends who need to be saved or restored to faith.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.

*When God measures men He puts the tape
around the heart not the head*
