

He Endured the Cross

John Dobbs

...Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:2

I find it difficult to focus for very long upon the excruciating experience of Jesus on the Cross. Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* was eye-opening, but also heart-wrenching. If we have any love at all for Jesus, we are pained to consider the brutal experience of the events leading up to and including his crucifixion on that dark day. I do think it is a dangerous thing, however, to avoid the image of the cross altogether. We should not find ourselves in such empathy that we shift immediately to the resurrection.

We should stay with the cross for a time. As we consider the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross we are exposed to the thoughts of the dying Savior. The immense pain, both physically and spiritually, of Jesus on the cross did not remove him from his mission nor his heart for humanity. The suffering of the Messiah is a reminder of the great price that was paid so that we could be freed from the eternal consequences of our sin.

Who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that having died to sin, we might live to righteousness; by His wounds you were healed.
1 Peter 2:24,

The beautiful old hymn *Rock of Ages* was written by Augustus Toplady. He died in 1779 at the age of 38 of consumption. As he neared the end of his earthly life, he said, "My prayers are now all converted into praise." This can only be true because of the cross.

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling,
Naked, come to Thee for dress: Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

In a more contemporary hymn, we sing, "Thank you for the cross, Lord."
Yes, this instrument of death was experienced by Jesus so that we could find release from death.

Thank you, Jesus, for enduring the cross.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

April 9, 2023

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: Jesus Christ, the Humanator

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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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 April 12, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. by Alex Tullis. You should receive notes ahead of time on email.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – April 16.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday, April 11. Women of the Genesis, Chapter 13, Job's wife.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing** – April 30 at Ithaca.
- ❖ **Men's Prayer Breakfast- May 13**, I will tell of your name to my brothers. (Ps. 22:22)



 **MAGI boxes** – We need 10 more pairs of boys' flip flops, Men's Small. We do not need more girls' flip flops. We have 10 each rubber balls for boys and girls. Jump ropes and yo-yos have been ordered. Please continue to check the whiteboards to see what we need. We only have about 5-6 weeks to collect items for the boxes. Thank you for \$\$\$!
BUY DISCOUNTED EASTER CANDY! No chocolate, please.

 **Game Time Fellowship-** Please share suggestions, ideas and level of interest in a gathering to play games and share snacks with each other.

 **Potluck dinner next Sunday after worship! Come, all!**

PRAYERS

- Thank you for praying for the Riveras to find a place to live. They have been given another year to look for a place, so no immediate pressure.
- **Bonnie Davis' brother Gregg** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and is deciding how to proceed with treatment.
- **Steve Burger, a friend and neighbor of Miki's** has been diagnosed with lung cancer, and **his brother-in-law, Bob** has also been diagnosed with lung cancer and has a mass in his colon, all within a few days' time.
- **Sandy and Arthur's grandson, Aidan**, will (hopefully) be shipping out with the US Army on Tuesday. Pray for his success and that his mom, Emily, will not miss her only child too much.
- **Bob Miller** from Horseheads had a stroke last week just before worship. He was treated in ICU and seems to be recovering well.
- **Paul Cowles** is making a slow recovery from the flu that attacked him following his bout with Covid. Please pray that he can regain his strength and feel better.
- **Arthur's sister, Susan, who has stage 4 breast cancer and is currently in remission, is awaiting results of a PET scan on Friday. Please pray that the cancer has not returned. She should know on Tuesday.**

Pray for these people:

- **Pat Guthrie**, lung cancer, chemo tolerance, (he's doing a bit better lately)
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia. Pray for strength for his wife Carrie.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer
- **Jay Sanabria-** still recovering from burst appendix infection and surgeries.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **Ukraine.**
- **Jerry Lowe-** needs contact with a church and a ride to worship. Pray that he may be encouraged.

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.