

## Mind Control

By Joe Slater

Unscrupulous characters in many walks of life, including religion, seek to control other people's minds. Their tactics include manipulation, brainwashing, and coercion. We ought to reject any and all efforts by other people to control our minds.

God's word teaches that we control our own minds. The fact that He tells us to renew our minds and set our minds on specific things shows that not even God Himself overrides our free will.

Why would we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (as per Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 4:23)? Why would Colossians 3:1-2 exhort us to set our minds on things that are above? God's word provides the answer from several angles.

Before we knew Jesus, we were "alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works" (Colossians 1:21). Hostility toward God begins in the mind! Only by renewal of the mind can we be reconciled to Him.

When people reject knowing God, the Lord "(gives) them over to a debased (unapproved) mind" (Romans 1:28). Because they don't approve Him, He doesn't approve them! The mind must be renewed before God will accept them.

Enemies of God, not wishing to know Him, naturally have "corrupt minds" (1 Timothy 6:5). Titus 1:5 makes the same point speaking of both mind and conscience being "defiled." Such minds focus not on things above, but earthly, carnal matters. Unless the mind is renewed and refocused, eternal destruction surely awaits!

Who controls your mind? Do you need to renew your mind?



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

April 30, 2023

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

Romans 16:16

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### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

**Today's Sermon: My Grace is Sufficient**

**Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

Steve is preaching this morning.

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](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:** Suspended until 5/7.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm May 3, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the second chapter on G (giving). You should receive notes ahead of time on email.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – May 21.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, May 2. Study of Jude.
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing** – July 30. Location TBD.
- ❖ **Men's Prayer Breakfast- May 13**, I Will Tell of Your NAME to my Brothers (Ps. 22:22)



 **MAGI boxes** – We need underwear (2 pairs each) for both boys and girls...size 12-14. We need pens and 10-12 count packs of colored pencils. Please continue to check the whiteboards to see what we need. We only have about 3-4 weeks to collect items for the boxes. Thank you for \$\$\$!



**Regional 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing today @ Ithaca! 5:15pm.** The later than usual time is to accommodate the festival in Ithaca which will re-open the streets at 5pm. Please support this fellowship activity among the church groups.

**Steve and Amy will be visiting family in VA next week and away on a trip to Israel for the next two weeks, so we will all miss them!**

## PRAYERS

- **Bonnie Davis' brother Gregg** will be having surgery to treat prostate cancer. Please pray for him.
- **Pat Guthrie** spent a couple days in the hospital last week when he went to the ER to check a soreness of his chemo port and was discovered to be in danger of pneumonia. He is on antibiotics for that and improving. He is, however, on chemo every 21 days for the foreseeable future. Please pray for Pat, and for Robin as she cares for him.
- **Please pray for Arthur and Sandy's grandson AJ** while he is in basic training for the Army in Ft. Jackson, SC.
- **Arthur's sister, Susan**, who has stage 4 breast cancer has resumed a new kind of chemo. Please pray for her to tolerate it well without any negative side effects.
- **Steve and Amy's neighbor's son, Brian**, is recovering from a spinal injury from a log falling on him on the back of his neck. Pray that he doesn't remain paralyzed.
- **Please pray for the effective success of the MAGI boxes that we will be sending to the age 11+ children in Honduras.**

### Pray for these people:

- **Steve Burger**- lung cancer
- **Tom** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia. Pray for strength for his wife Carrie.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer, back on chemo
- **Jay Sanabria**- still recovering from burst appendix infection and resulting surgeries.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **Ukraine and other war-torn areas of the world (Sudan).**
- **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](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.