

The Divine Basis of Religious Unity

By Gary Colley

Newspapers and billboards often advertise "Attend the church of your choice." These suggest, and many tell us, that one church is as good as another. To those who are moving into new communities and searching for churches to attend, it may be an impressive building that attracts their attention or a friend might invite them, but most seem to believe that one church is as good as another. If one church is as good as another, then to attend the church of one's choice would be correct, but what saith the Scriptures (Rom. 4:3)?

The Lord said He would build His church (Matt.16:18). Could a man-built church be as good as the church Christ built? Christ is the foundation of His church (I Cor. 3:11). Could any other foundation be as good as this foundation? Christ established His teaching in His church (Matt. 28:18-20). Could the division and confusion of denominationalism made by the creeds of men be as good as the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-6, Matt. 15:13)? Christ shed His blood to save man and purchase His church (Heb. 2:9, Acts 20:28). Can any man claim that his blood could purchase his church and cleanse as Christ's blood does? Christ proclaims that He is the Head of His church (Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18).

Now, men claim to be the head of their churches, and one even claims to be the pope of his, but who would claim that a human head is as good as the Divine Head, a position only Jesus Christ holds over His church? The Lord commanded His apostles to teach people who obeyed the Gospel by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, "...to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28:20). This included the commands for His worship. The five items He commanded in worship were singing, preaching, giving, partaking of the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day, and praying (Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7).

There are many different kinds of worship in the many man-made churches. Would any be foolish enough to contend that what man has commanded in worship equals what Christ commanded in worship (John 4:24, Matt. 15:9)? No, one church is not as good as another! Let us choose the church of Christ's choice!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

May 21, 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: How We Get the Bible

Scripture Reading: Revelation 19:6-10

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

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Romans
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm May 24, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the second chapter on O (obeying). You should receive notes ahead of time by email.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – June 18.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, May 23. Joel
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing** – July 30. Here.



MAGI boxes –We met at the building on Monday at 10am and worked on filling our 80 boxes until after 3pm, taking no time for lunch, eating snacks as we worked. On Thursday the boxes were delivered to Mark Hatfield at the meeting place in Williamsport, PA. All that was lacking in the boxes was 8 girls' skirts.



Delayed Memorial Day Picnic: Saturday, June 3rd
at Amy & Steve's house- 911 Beardsley Hollow Rd., Alpine, NY 14805.
Lunch at 1pm, bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs.



Our monthly Potluck Dinner will be held downstairs today following worship. Please plan to stay and share this time of fellowship with us.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for Steve and Amy as they travel in Israel. Pray for their safety, enjoyment, and ease of travel.**
- **Please pray for the effective success of the MAGI boxes that we will be sending to the age 11+ children in Honduras.**
- **Pray for Vicki Joice as she and David have had to place her mother-in-law, Helen Joice, in a nursing home because of worsening dementia. Helen was instrumental in leading Vicki and her family to Christ years ago.**

Pray for these people:

- **Steve Burger-** lung cancer
- **Bob** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Sue Barry-** Breast cancer stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Pat Guthrie-** lung cancer, stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Bonnie's brother Gregg-** prostate surgery in June
- **Mike Walls,** frontal lobe dementia. He is not improving and Carrie is very discouraged.
- **Jim Sexton,** esophageal cancer, back on chemo
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April,** terminal cancer, salvation
- **Ukraine, Sudan, and other war-torn areas of the world.**
- **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.