

THE ULTIMATE PRIVILEGE

Robert Lupo

There is much talk these days about “privilege.” While this word has been in the English language for hundreds of years, it is being wielded in order to divide this country along economic and racial lines. But, no matter what monetary or societal privilege a group of people may or may not have in this world, nothing compares to the privilege of being a Christian. No matter what skin color you have, what neighborhood you grew up in, or what schools you went to, Jesus Christ has offered every soul the ultimate privilege: salvation.

In Deuteronomy 33, Israel is getting ready to enter the Promised Land. Here, Moses gives his blessings to Israel just before leaving to die on Mount Nebo. He tells the people in verse 29, “Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty!”

Israel had been through a lot in the forty years leading up to this point. Over and over, God provided food, protection and favor to the children of Israel. But over and over, Israel complained, sinned and blasphemed their God. In no way did they deserve God’s protection, but He saved them anyway. Moses tells His people that no nation in the entire world is as privileged as them. Why? Because God chose to save them, and they did not do a thing to deserve it.

In the world, mercy like this does not exist. Any mistake you or your ancestors may have made can and will be used to “cancel” you. Instead of intellect or education, it is the color of your skin or your gender that determines whether or not you are allowed to speak in public discourse. This is retribution against those born into “privilege.” The world has no place for mercy. All the world knows is revenge.

But God is infinitely merciful. He does not hold a grudge like the world. Through the sacrifice of His Son, God extended salvation to every man and woman, no matter where they come from. What greater privilege is there? Just like Israel, not one of us did anything to deserve His grace, yet He offers us salvation freely (**Eph 2:8-9**). “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (**Rom 5:8**).

The world does not understand what it means to be privileged. Only those who have received God’s mercy can. No matter what disadvantages we are born into or what struggles we have endured, God has made everyone equal through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Anyone who repents and is baptized in the name of Jesus will be saved (**Acts 2:38**) and welcomed into the eternal kingdom of the Lord. Thanks be to God for the ultimate privilege of salvation. How happy I am that I have been saved by the Lord.



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

February 25, 2024

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. on Zoom

Today’s Sermon: The Who and How of Discipleship

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-8

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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www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm February 28, on Zoom, 1 Thessalonians.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, February 27. The prophet Zechariah.
- ❖ **Community Coffee House-** Saturday, March 9, 1-3pm.
- ❖ **Next Potluck & Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – March 17.
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing-** March 24 at Horseheads.
- ❖ **Valley Cities Ladies' Prayer Brunch-** My Identity in Jesus -April 6
- ❖ **Soul-winning workshop** at Horseheads. April 13.



- **The ladies are planning our second annual Ladies' Prayer Brunch on April 6th. The theme is My Identity in Jesus.**
- **Please welcome Jackie's sister Phyllis Bloom back among us. Phyllis was baptized here in Sayre a few years ago. She has moved up from North Carolina and settled into the Sayre Memory Care Residence on North Elmer.**

PRAYERS

- **Dawn Cowles** will begin chemo treatments on Monday, March 4th. We pray that she has few side effects and is comfortable throughout her treatments.
- **Pray for Shirley Stroll**, who has terminal cancer. She is a former neighbor of Todd's family when he was a boy, and her son is a friend of his.
- **Jonathan Russell** who worships at Ithaca needs foot surgery to repair damage caused by diabetes, but first has to remedy a heart condition that has developed. He is currently in hospital in Rochester dealing with fluid around his heart and in other areas and congestive heart failure.
- Please pray for **Ruthie's friend Marguerite Jordan**, who is in her 90s and has broken her hip and damaged a bone in her neck when she fell. Marguerite is in Packer Hospital here in Sayre.
- **Stephen Salada, age 14, is the grandson of Miki's friend Georgia.** He was taken to ER yesterday with Influenza A, which was making it hard for him to breathe. He was found to have inflammation of his left lung and is now responding to antibiotics. Give praise to God and continue praying for recovery.
- **Pray for the success of our outreach effort with the coffee house and open mic program for the community.**
- **Pray for success of our preacher search.**
- **Pray for impact from our MAGI boxes as we prepare to fill 80 more for 2024.**

Continue to pray for these people:

- **Bonnie's brother Greg** upcoming hernia surgery
- **Pat Guthrie**-he has lung cancer, stage 4, and his wife Robin.
- **Paulette**- Pain coming from her spine and affecting her hip and leg.
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia. Pray also for Carrie who has left the marriage. Mike's health care is now being overseen by his sister.
- **Sue Barry**- stage 4 breast cancer. (currently in remission)
- **Steve's brother Brian**- prostate cancer
- **Steve's sister Deb**- leukemia, and breast cancer
- **Monique (Miki's friend)**- managing back pain meds.

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.