

## The Edges of the Kingdom

Arthur Barry

How does the fact that we have one God and King who is not on earth affect our thinking about civil governments and religious denominations?

- I. Both are primarily institutions of man.
  - A. With man there are many gods and many kings. (1 Corinthians 8:5-6; Deuteronomy 10:17)
  - B. The Kingdom of Heaven is one central government for all tribes, nations and tongues. God has no intention of allowing anyone but Jesus to occupy His throne ever again.
  - C. Jesus has been reigning since He returned to Heaven and poured out the Holy Spirit, and He will reign until death is put under His feet. (1 Corinthians 15:25)
  - D. His rule is both civil and religious, therefore His followers are a “royal priesthood”.
- II. God allows institutions of man on Earth, but they will be destroyed with the earth.
  - A. Earthly governments actually get more respect in the Bible than earthly religions.
    1. Christians are told to be obedient citizens because God ordains civil authorities. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)
    2. The LORD condemns earthly religions. (Matthew 15:13,14; John 15:2-6)
    3. The Bible is full of warnings against false teachers and against dividing the Body of Christ. (Matthew 7:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:1-17)
  - B. Will He allow members of these earthly institutions in Heaven?
    1. Being a good citizen on earth enhances our heavenly citizenship. The key is not to have our minds on earthly things. (Philippians 3:17-21) 1 Peter 2:17 puts it this way: “Show proper respect for everyone: love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”
    2. However, being a part of God’s heavenly kingdom on earth means that God has the final word in my life. If it comes to a choice between obeying God and obeying man, a true subject of King Jesus has already made the choice. (Acts 5:29)
    3. That applies in spiritual matters also. False teachers will not escape punishment, but neither will those whom they persuade (Acts 20:29-31; Galatians 5:1-4).

Earthly governments come and go according to God’s will, and God tolerates man’s tampering. God’s heavenly government came and stayed, and He warns against all human intervention.



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

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May 1, 2016

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

***Feed your faith, and your doubts will starve to death.***

#### **Today’s Sermon: *Did You Receive Your Gift?***

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

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

**[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org)**

**Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-12**

**Hymns: 288** Fairest LORD Jesus; **414** Anywhere With Jesus; **554** O Jesus I Have Promised; **744** God’s Family; **791** On Bended Knee

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class, Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Maxine will lead the lesson on the third chapter of Ruth. Our lesson will be here at the building.
- **Next Potluck- May 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday).**
- There will be a campaign in June to contact all interested people in the **Tunkhannock** area for Bible studies and worship. Robin Barry and his family from Soldotna, AK plan on visiting Arthur and Sandy at that time to help with the effort.
- Check out the poster for the **Christian Town Hall** that Arthur is working on and please add this to your prayer list.



- Jerry Lowe was released from the convalescent home on Monday and was allowed to go home.
- An exploratory team from the **Antioch Initiative** will be coming up to Tunkhannock, PA this week to start making plans to plant a church there.

- **Men's Revival-This Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> here at the building. 9am- 2pm.** Coffee and snacks, and lunch served.

BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS QUESTIONNAIRE (on paper or online) SO ARTHUR CAN SUBMIT OUR SCORES TO DOUG HAMILTON. DOUG WILL CREATE A PROFILE OF OUR CONGREGATION SO WE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE WITH OUR MISSIONS AND MORE FULFILLED AS WE DAILY STRIVE TO WALK IN THE LIGHT AND DO GOD'S WILL.

***The Bible will keep you from sin,  
and sin will keep you from the Bible***

## PRAYERS...

- Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the church in Plattsburg, has lung cancer and is being treated with chemo. She is doing very well and the chemo seems to be shrinking her tumor.
- Ruthie Albro has been sick with a bad cold.
- Please pray for the outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA.
- Please pray for the church at Endwell during their time of transition. They are in the process of interviewing prospective preachers.
- Darlene is looking for work.
- Jackie Lobevero, Darlene's mom, finished with her job on Friday. Pray that she can continue to make do on the income she will now receive plus whatever aid she will be able to get from the government. Also pray that she can adjust well to retirement.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, Erin Beiber, is suffering from breast cancer that has metastasized to her spine. She is the mother of two young boys.
- Our family and friends who need to be saved or restored to faith.
- Pray for our country, the upcoming election, and our Christian example to the rest of the world during these times. Help us to take advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel.

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

**Speak out for the Lord! Remember, silence isn't always GOLDEN; on occasion it may be just plain YELLOW!**



Remember your MOTHER next Sunday! 