

Perfecting the Defective Human Race

Last week I talked about birth defects and how sin has triggered corruption in our lives which affects even the innocent. Of course the perfect example of that is Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, who suffered the full pain of sin on our behalf.

As Christians we have the hope of living eternally in a state of perfection but meanwhile we endure the reality of living in a world that produces a defective humanity. It can be hard to reconcile these two realities. While we cannot say that anyone chooses to be born defective, neither can we say that it is God's choice. That choice was made by our original ancestors, a long time ago when they accepted Satan's invitation to sin. As a result humanity suffers deformity of body and soul. Sin is a disease of the inner person that eventually decays through to the outer person.

We cannot accept that any of these anomalies are normal. Greed, anger, covetousness and lust are not normal. Sexual sins are not normal and neither is confusion about sexual identity. God certainly did not take that approach when He sent His Son to make things right. Every human being should be born perfect, just as Jesus was. That is God's will.

Humans have always had the option to have their souls repaired through faith in God, however. Even the most defective body can have a perfected soul. This would not be possible if not for the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those who have accepted His invitation to overcome sin will one day be transformed into physical perfection. The glory of the inner person will eventually shine through to the outer person. The Apostle John reflects on that process as he talks about being perfected in God's love now so that we will be like Jesus when we see Him. Please read 1 John again and note that all this is in the context of maintaining fellowship with God by being honest about sin. (1 John 1)

By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 1John 4:17

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 1John 3:2,3



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

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

June 5, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: *Christian Joy*

Guest Speaker: Jerry Stumpf from Altoona, PA

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

- Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org**

Scripture: Romans 12:1-21

Hymns: TBA

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Ladies Class, Tuesday, June 28 at 12 noon. This will be the last meeting of the summer at Sandy's house and will include a dish-to-pass meal.

- **Next Potluck-** June 19th.
- The **Christian Town Hall** has been cancelled due to lack of interest. We will try again later.



- **Dave and Lynne Laton** from the Elmore, AL church are spending the month of June in their camper in Tunkhannock while Dave preaches there the first 4 Sundays in the Endless Mountains church. Jerry Stumpf from Altoona, PA has volunteered to preach here today so Arthur and Sandy can attend the first worship service at the new church tomorrow.
- **Robin and Katie Barry**, along with their 7 children and young friend Eli Mitchell, will be arriving from AK on Friday to help with the campaign to launch the new church in Tunkhannock. It will be called the Endless Mountains Church of Christ. (As of this writing they did not make it out of Anchorage and may not arrive till Saturday)



A LESSON FROM CRAYONS: We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box

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.
- Emily Barry had a job interview near Buffalo and is waiting to see if she gets a second interview. Please pray that she is successful in securing a job soon.
- Please pray for the outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA.
- Please pray that Darlene makes the right decision about a job opportunity that has come up.
- Pray for Jackie Lobevero, Darlene's mother, as she adjusts to retirement and tries to secure enough income to live on.
- 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.
- Cathy Carey asks for prayers for her spiritual strength
- Ted, Ethan and Jennifer have all been sick lately and could use some respite.

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



Pride is the most peculiar disease known to humans. It makes nearly everybody sick except the one who has it.