

## Reflecting on “Worldly Entertainment”

Ralph Weinhold of the Danville (AR) church of Christ.

Paul’s faith was focused upon the gospel truth of the inner man: I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me (Gal. 2:20). Paul concluded his epistle: But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world (Gal. 6:14). The truth Paul wrote on his heart was outwardly lived through the daily experience of denying his flesh the pleasures and treasures of this world of sin.

Modern Christians’ greatest challenge is to so love Christ and His cross that we daily deny ourselves of worldly lusts and pride. The flesh presents a constant temptation to enjoy the lusts of the flesh, the eyes and the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:15). Those who live by the faith that they have been “crucified with Christ” must “count” themselves (cf. Rom. 6:11) dead to the numerous worldly attractions of the flesh.

Christ spoke of the world hating Him (Jn. 15:24). The same world that nailed Jesus to His cross nailed Paul to that same cross with Him. Christians must view the world of sin as our mortal enemy! Friendship with the world is enmity with God; whoever therefore makes himself a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (Jms. 4:4). We either make the world our “friend”, or we consider it our most deadly enemy that hated us and nailed us to the cross with Jesus.

Satan himself is the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4)! Is it any wonder that our God takes offense toward those who would make friends with his world? While many Christians admit we are not to indulge in the sins the world welcomes, these Christians also believe we can be “friendly” with the world and enjoy as much of it as we can without committing any “big sins”. In this “deception of sin” many Christians laugh with worldly comedians and strive to enjoy as much “worldly entertainment” as possible.

Lately I have given serious thought as to how much of the world has invaded the church. How much have we allowed the steady diet of Hollywood entertainment to influence our thinking? Has our craving for movies, videos, computers and mass media dulled our spiritual senses so that we spend more and more time with Hollywood and less and less time with the Holy Bible? May God save us from becoming the thorny soil in which the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches (and enter-tainment, rw) choke the word so that it becomes unfruitful (Lk. 13:22)!

James exhorted the Jewish Christians to whom he wrote: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands you sinners and purify your hearts you doubleminded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:8-10). Will you join me in confessing that too much of the world and too little of His Word has had a deadly spiritual influence upon each of us?



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

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

April 9, 2017

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class- 10:00 a.m.

#### Thursday

Home Bible study-7:00pm

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**ALL THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
GREET YOU.  
ROMANS 16:16**

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#### **Today’s Sermon:** *Run Like the Wind!*

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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

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**Scripture:** Romans 12:9-13

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Theme: **Spring!** Take note that this potluck has been put off until the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday to allow for Easter Sunday family time.**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Darlene's. We hope to be discussing chapter 6 of Struggle, Seek, Grow, about Rahab, which has been postponed from several weeks ago, and then enjoy lunch together to celebrate the end of Darlene's radiation treatments.**
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing will be held here at Valley Cities at 4:30pm on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Midweek Bible study Thursday nights at 7pm.**
- **Men's Revival, Inner Man: the Uprising, Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Arthur has lined up speakers from Newark, NY and Endwell, NY.**



- ✓ Please let Sandy know if you are willing to make soup, salad, sandwiches or dessert, provide beverages or snacks for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday singing on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Johnny D's Ice Cream, around the corner on E. Lockhart, is open for the season! Stop by; get some phenomenal ice cream and say hi to Marylou! Just sayin'...



Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

## PRAYERS...

- Pray for all of our family members and loved ones who are yet lost or have strayed far away to come (back) to Christ.
- Pray for comfort for those from war-torn or famine-stricken countries, especially in Syria at this time.
- Please pray for Loren, an acquaintance of Lani's, here in Sayre.
- Please pray for Tracy Spencer, Rhonda's friend from work, who has been diagnosed with lupus.
- Jerry Lowe no longer needs to take medicine for his diabetes, nor wear a pacemaker! Praise the Lord!
- Darlene had her last radiation treatment on Tuesday. She is feeling very tired, but relieved to have her treatments come to an end.
- Darlene's husband Doug will soon be tested to see if he is compatible to donate a kidney to his brother, Mark, who is experiencing renal failure. Pray for Mark, as he is very poorly.
- Darlene's sister, Vicki Joyce, of Locust Grove, OK found out last week that she does have breast cancer. She is grateful for our prayers.
- Jill Wright from Kittanning had a needle biopsy of the thyroid which showed that the node on her thyroid is benign, but needs to be monitored.
- Please pray for Emily Barry as she makes a decision about the node on her thyroid. She will consult with the endocrinologist on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Kiley Dolan has asked for prayers for her mother, Heather Morse, who is working on getting her life together following incarceration.
- If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

**barncat7237@gmail.com** or text or call (607) 261-0911.