

What's Good About Blood?

Arthur Barry

In the history of Israel there are times of disappointment and discouragement and also times of great revival and encouragement. When Israel was in rebellion, they neglected the commands of their God and actually served other gods. At times, however, they turned back to God in a dramatic way. Such occasions are always associated with a particular king. If the king did evil, then the nation did evil but if the king did what was right then the nation would do what was right. One of the worst examples was Ahaz:

Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. 2 Chronicles 28:1

This is something of an understatement for Ahaz was the king who actually shut the doors of the temple. (28:24) One of the best examples was his son, Hezekiah, who opened the temple up again and restored the true worship to Judah. He even beseeched those who remained in Israel to join them for the Passover celebration. That event is recorded in 2 Chronicles 30:13ff and there are a number of things about that Passover celebration that don't "go by the book" as we say. The people had not been faithful in keeping the Passover as a nation and King Hezekiah organized a Passover that is described this way.

There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 30:26

This was a huge celebration as so many of God's people renewed their covenant with Him. How it must have filled God's heart with Joy! The magnitude of these celebrations is reflected in the number of sacrifices that were offered. 2000 bulls and 17,000 lambs were contributed by the king (30:24). I can't help but think that animals are much better off when Israel is rebelling. During those times they just went through the motions of obeying God, if at all, and probably did not take too heavy a toll on the livestock with their sacrifices. But once they got a mind to repent and really show God how much He meant to them it seemed that rivers of blood had to flow as though it were a sin to leave any animal alive in the land. What's so good about blood? That would be my question if I were a bull or a lamb. "Please go back to your bad ways and let your own blood be on your heads, not mine!" But a bull or a lamb cannot speak, cannot resist God's will.

Jesus can speak and He can resist and yet He bleeds; He bleeds oceans, not rivers. He bleeds because men are bad, that is true. But isn't it more important that He bleeds to make men good? It is when we turn to Him that the blood flows and angels rejoice. It is then that God forgives us. It is then that God can cradle us, like lambs, in His loving arms.

That is what is good about blood.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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February 20

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: TBA

Paul will be preaching this morning.

Scripture Reading: TBA

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS…

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the **Psalms** and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** February 23rd, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing a series of lessons on **Signs of the Times**.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (rescheduled from today):** February 27th. **NEXT WEEK!** Theme: LOVE
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, February 22nd, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book **Living Stones** by Casandra Martin. Lesson 6, Day 3.
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing- May 29th.** Time and place TBA, probably here at Valley Cities.



MAGI BOX NEEDS:

You can take 4 items off your list. We have all the flip flops, toothbrush covers, rubber balls and combs that we need. May 1st will be here before we know it, so let's not forget the remainder of the list.

Jerry Lowe called on Friday to report on his time in Las Vegas, NV! He had spent some time in the VA hospital following several ministrokes, but he said he was better and feeling fine. He wanted us all to know that he loves every one of us and says hello to all!

PRAYERS

- Please pray for Miki's friend Val Freeman, who recently lost her husband Larry and is suffering from bad health.
 - Dave Laton is home from the hospital and will continue with his chemo treatments from home over the next several weeks. We praise God for answering our prayers because Dave is expected to make a full recovery from leukemia!
 - Arthur's sister Sue, who had metastatic breast cancer, has had a second clear scan and has been told she doesn't have to take chemo now. Praise God for that!
 - Prayers of thanks for a successful surgery for Arthur. He has had a difficult recovery, but we appreciate all the prayers and caring messages and acts of kindness.
 - More prayers of thanks for Patty's successful surgery and we pray that she remains cancer free.
 - Gail Westerhold, who recently had one kidney removed because of cancer, is now having trouble with her remaining kidney. She appreciates our prayers.
 - Dan Myers will be having a lung scan on March 2nd.
 - Pray for Val Chilson of the Horseheads church as she lost her mother to heart disease recently.
 - Please pray for Jim Sexton (and wife Debbie), formerly of the Lawson Rd. church in Rochester, now in Cherokee, NC. He has esophageal cancer that may be spreading to his liver.
 - Please pray for Pat Gutherie because his chemo treatments for lung cancer are becoming burdensome to him, and he wants to be able to travel to Honduras in April for mission work.
 - Pray for:
 - Linnett Short (lung cancer, tumor on liver) on immunotherapy.
 - Zachary Cowles (deployment with the Army)
 - Steve Noble (needs lung transplant) He is on the list.
 - Arthur's brother Chris in England (Alzheimer's)
 - Darlene's friend Connie (stage 4 lung cancer)
- 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.