

## Transformed by the Word

By Bryan Kirby

Called to be a witness In Acts 22, Paul recounts the story of his conversion from Judaism to Christianity. We read that Ananias tells Paul in verse 15, For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. Just like in a court of law, this means that Paul was going to be called to give testimony concerning Christ. We have recorded for us in Acts and the epistles that Paul wrote many different instances of his being called as a witness and giving that testimony concerning Christ. Let's look at a few examples of how Paul did this and apply them to our calling to be witnesses to Christ.

First, Paul bore witness to who Jesus actually was. Romans 1:1-5 gives us a complete picture of who Jesus was to Paul: Son of God, Lord, Christ, the descendant of David, the fulfillment of prophecy, etc. It is of the utmost importance for us to believe in Jesus, know who He is and be willing to tell others about it. Jesus wasn't just a prophet or teacher as some believe, nor was He just a "good man" as others will tell us. He was, and is, the Son of the living God, our Lord and our Savior. When we know Jesus like Paul knew Jesus, we can't help but tell other people about Him.

Secondly, Paul testifies to what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross. When Paul went to Corinth to preach the gospel, he claimed that he only preached "Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23). The fact that Jesus was crucified is the lynch pin of the Gospel message. It was only through His death on the cross that we can be freed from our sins. He had to die so that the price for our sins could be paid. We proclaim this every time we partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. We should also bear witness of this fact in our daily lives, too.

Finally, Paul tells us the changes that were made in his life because of Jesus. In 1 Timothy 1:12-16, Paul gives us a "laundry list" of some of the bad things he had done in his life before he knew Jesus was Lord. He tells Timothy that he was a "blasphemer, persecutor and violent aggressor" and a chief among sinners! Verse 16 shows us that Paul found mercy through Jesus and was put into God's service. After Paul's conversion, he became the "Apostle to the Gentiles." What a marvelous change! Sometimes we shy away from telling people that we were in sin and now we are saved. Perhaps we don't want people to know what sin we were in. Sometimes we want the focus to be on Christ, not on us, but what better way to show Christ's influence than to show what He has done in our own lives! Remember, we are all called to be witnesses of Christ. Don't let any opportunity pass you by!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

February 27, 2022  
-----

### 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: Swords and Plowshares

Arthur will be preaching this morning.

### Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-4

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**valleycitieschurchofchrist.org**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](http://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:** March 2<sup>nd</sup>, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing a series of lessons on **Signs of the Times**.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Theme: SPRING**
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 4.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing- May 29<sup>th</sup>, here at Valley Cities.**



### MAGI BOX NEEDS:

**Keep checking the list in the front foyer on the bulletin board. We don't have any boys or girls' underwear or little boys shorts yet...**

**Jerry Lowe called again on Friday to check on Arthur and to see how we all were doing. He is well and happy, enjoying the warm weather in Las Vegas. As always, he wanted us all to know that he loves every one of us and says hello to all!**

## PRAYERS

- **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!**
- **Prayers of thanks for a successful surgery for Arthur. His recovery is slow but steady with a few hiccoughs along the way. His next checkup is at the end of March.**
- **Dan Myers will be having a lung scan on Wednesday.**
- **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 Guthrie 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.
  - **Gail Westerhold** (problems with remaining kidney)
  - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
  - **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant)
  - **Arthur's brother Chris** in England (Alzheimer's) Pray that Arthur and his sisters will be able to visit Chris before too long.
  - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer) Her cancer has spread to other organs in her body.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.