

Self-Rising is Not an Option

Arthur Barry

Our world seems to be full of malcontents whose cry is, "It is time to rise up!" Any number of champions are rallying their base with these words, whether it be abortion rights activists, or climate change warriors, or neighbors resisting local zoning laws.

These are powerful words, aren't they? Have you ever heeded such a call? Perhaps you have been the one to issue the call. "We must stand together and rise up! Rise up against oppression, against injustice, against the bosses, the system" etc.

If you are a living human being, you have disagreement, to some degree, with at least one other person. You probably identify with one group or another in our society, like "Left" or "Right". It is becoming very natural to adopt a victim's attitude, and then to seek the company of other victims. You can share your grievances with those of like mind and incite each other to the point of feeling the need to do something about "the powers that be." The slogan "Rise Up" fits so well because it suggests purpose and courage. There is an element of confidence, as though the words guarantee victory for those who rise up. But history shows that there is no such guarantee.

As Christians we have a very different take on the call to rise up, and it is appropriate to use those words. We read in the Bible how Jesus predicted that children would rise up against parents who followed Him (Matthew 10:21), but we also hear Him tell a lame man to "Rise up and walk" (Luke 5:23).

As followers of Christ, we believe that we are part of a fallen humanity because of sin, but that in Christ we can indeed rise up out of sin and death.

Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." (Ephesians 5:14)

There is a big difference when Jesus tells us to rise up, however, because He has already risen. Apart from His rising up there is no rising up. The most persuasive and well-meaning activists need their hearers to help them rise up. Not so with Jesus.... He does not expect us to be self-rising. He has risen Himself.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

July 9, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: Can We Obtain Purity?

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm July 12, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the third chapter on W (working). You should receive notes ahead of time by email.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – July 16.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, July 11. **Jonah cont'd.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing** – July 30. **Here.**



The “**House to House and Heart to Heart**” mailing took place several weeks ago and **we have already received a few responses by mail.** Arthur followed up one of these by delivering some additional Bible study materials and has received some lessons back!



We should be planning our **5th Sunday Singing** which we are hosting at the end of the month.



Bring-a-friend Sunday and potluck dinner NEXT SUNDAY! Please plan to invite someone to worship and stay after for a wonderful fellowship meal!

PRAYERS

Steve is awaiting the results of a skin biopsy. Please pray that it is negative.

Steve's brother Chris had skin cancer removed from his arm and is doing well although sore.

Amy's results came back negative for serious things that could be causing her stomach issues, yet she is still experiencing discomfort. Please pray that she can find out what the problem is and be able to start the healing process.

Pray for much success with the House to House and Heart to Heart outreach effort.

Steve Burger had his last chemo infusion on Friday to treat his lung cancer. Depending on how he is after that, they will determine his next course of action.

Steve's wife Judy passed out at the doctor's office last week because of A-fib. They have decided it was a reoccurrence of Lyme disease and she is recovering well.

Pray for these people:

- **Bob** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Sue Barry**- Breast cancer stage 4 chemo treatment. Pray that she will go into remission.
- **Pat Guthrie**- lung cancer, stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia. He is not improving. **Carrie** needs prayer and encouragement.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer, he is back on chemo.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **The people of Ukraine, Russia and Sudan.**
- **Jerry Lowe**- needs contact with a church, and encouragement. We are awaiting word about this from a friend in the Anchor Point, AK church who visits her sister regularly in Las Vegas!

.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.