

## ***Paul's Winning Way***

Arthur Barry

Paul's philosophy of winning is very different from the world's approach. We see that clearly in his teaching in 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. This passage is a powerful insight into Paul's method of evangelism. He actually does whatever he can to WIN, but when Paul talks about winning, he means winning souls. When he talks about "winning" he means "saving". His basic plan is stated in the following verses.

Though I am free and belong to no man,  
I make myself a slave to everyone,  
to win as many as possible.  
1 Corinthians 9:19

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.  
I have become all things to all men so that  
by all possible means I might save some.  
1 Corinthians 9:22

And yet Paul is not unaware that winning also means "beating", and we all know that a winner is someone who beats the competition. In this same passage Paul does talk about beating his competition, but, again, there is a surprise for us if we are thinking the way the world thinks. Here is what Paul has to say:

Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly;  
I do not fight like a man beating the air.  
No, I beat my body and make it my slave  
so that after I have preached to others,  
I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.  
1 Corinthians 9:26,27

To Paul his competition is his own body, and if he is to win others, he must beat himself, he must bring his own body into submission. You don't have to live in this world for very long to find out that there is no warrior as fearsome as self. When we go up against ourselves, we face a ruthless and relentless champion who does not like to be beaten and who has countless ways of defending his or her domain. Paul teaches us not to underestimate the power of this competition. If you think you must train hard to beat others, do not think you have to train any less hard to win others.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
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November 20, 2022

**All the Churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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### **WELCOME!**

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

**Today's Sermon: Ezekiel: What Did He See? What Did He Say?**

Arthur will be preaching today.

**Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

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

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur is teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm November 23, on Zoom, Paul is teaching from James.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday November 29, Lesson 13, Day 4, 10am on Zoom.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing-** January 29<sup>th</sup>.



Please note that there will be no Ladies' Class on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final lesson in our current study book will be on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Our new study will resume on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in the new year. Sandy has several copies of the new book with her today- Women of the Genesis by Cindy Colley.

There has been a suggestion that we serve a Christmas Dinner here at the building for local people as an outreach activity. Please let your interest in this be known.

Steve Noble, who we have been praying for since before he received a lung transplant a few months ago, passed away on Thursday morning. Please pray for his family (wife Donna, daughter Stephanie and family) at this sad time. Steve was one of five children of Mac's (Miki's husband) cousin.

# Happy Thanksgiving!

## PRAYERS

- **Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine** who are living every day through a war. They are losing friends and loved ones, their homes, their jobs and in many cases having to flee the country for safety. Remember to also pray for the **people in Russia**, especially for the church.
- **Pray for the family of Steve Noble**, for peace and comfort after his passing.
- **Pray for Jerry Lowe** as he considers having a knee replaced.
- **We pray for safe travels for all families for Thanksgiving get togethers.**
- **Pray for Henry** as he has started radiation therapy for his cancer. Pray for minimal side effects and that his sister Caroline will be okay while Henry is being treated.
- **Vicki Joice reports from OK that her mom, Jackie**, is doing well and having a ball going places and doing things. Please pray that Jackie continues to do well for the next few months she is with Vicki before she returns to us.
- **Darlene and Doug Elsbree** are planning to set off for Florida on Wednesday. Pray for safe travels for them and keep them safe until they return in the New Year.

### Pray for these people:

- **Mike Walls** (frontal lobe dementia), and his wife Carrie and the family. Mike is planning on heading back out to L.A. soon for more surgery.
- **Zach Cowles (overseas deployment with the Army)**
- **Dan Myers (lung cancer)**
- **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer, spread to brain) They are trying targeted radiation.
- **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave Merrill-** (liver cancer) He has now quit work.
- **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer) not out of the woods yet, but lymph system appears clear of cancer.

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.