

## **Taking Discipline Seriously -**

Arthur Barry

Discipline is a mark of Christian maturity. Discipline in any endeavor requires that you take that endeavor seriously. Professional football players demonstrate that they take the game seriously every time they are on the field. You might say they are “mature” football players. If they do not demonstrate that they take the game seriously they are dropped from the team and, in fact they are expected to be “mature” and “disciplined” in between games as well. If they do not show up on time for practices, or put in the effort when they are there, or if they let other things in their life hinder their performance, they will not be picked for the next game. They are viewed as needing to grow up a bit more. Taking things seriously is the mark of adulthood. It is not that adults do not know how to have fun, but they must never forget their responsibilities.

The saints at Corinth received a rebuke from the apostle Paul because they were not taking their responsibilities seriously. He described them as “carnal” or “fleshly”.

*But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?* 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

I don't imagine that any NFL coach, worth his salt, will be delivering such a pep-talk to his players. Any pro-footballer, who does not behave in a human, fleshly way is likely to get himself crushed. He is immature – he simply does not take football seriously enough. The Corinthians were immature – they did not take the Body of Christ seriously enough. They might well make the cut for a football team but in 1 Corinthians 11:29 Paul says they are actually endangering themselves by being too human.

*For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

They did not take the body / church (Ephesians 1:22,23) seriously, which means they did not take Jesus seriously. At the Lord's Table they filled their stomachs but left with their hearts empty (1 Corinthians 11:17-22). Their attitude was to take care of themselves first; that's the easy way. They did the same thing when it came time to worship God with their spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14). Paul, again, tells them they need to grow up. (1 Corinthians 13:11). In a child's world there is always a grown up around (at least there should be) to take care of things so that they can play, learn, and grow. As Christians we must accept responsibility for each other. We must strive for the maturity that builds up the church and that means we must take Jesus and His church seriously. That is not the easy way, but it is Jesus' way.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
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Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

Sept 11, 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: Favoritism**

Paul will be preaching today.

### **Scripture Reading: James 2:1-13**

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

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur will continue teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm September 14, on Zoom, Paul will continue teaching from James.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** September 18<sup>th</sup>. NEXT WEEK
- ❖ **Ladies' Class - Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, Lesson 11, Day 3, 10am on Zoom.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing- October 30<sup>th</sup>, venue TBA.**



### MAGI BOXES

Work has been done on the storage room where our Magi Box items are kept. Soon things will be counted, labeled and organized in bins and boxes. Please leave a note or mark a number when adding things to the donation.

### POTLUCK DINNER, BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY--- NEXT WEEK



### SOJOURNERS

We have started the application process for summer of 2023. Tentative dates are July 10-20.

REMEMBER 9/11

## PRAYERS

- **Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine!** Remember to also pray for the people in **Russia**, especially for the church.
- **Continue to pray for Molly and Pancho Rivera of Nicholson, PA.** They think they have a place where they can move, although it is very small.
- **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning has been hit very hard by his recent chemo treatments. He is suffering from lung cancer.
- **Arthur** is still not out of the woods with his health problems. He has been infected with C-Diff while staying in the hospital. It is sapping his strength and causing pain.
- **Please pray for contacts those of us who knocked on doors may have made.**
- **Don Myers**, now in Lucedale, MS, has had a third unsuccessful back surgery, but is enjoying moderate relief from pain from Physical Therapy in a heated pool.
- Pray for these people:
  - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer, tumor on liver)
  - **Mike Walls** (frontal lobe dementia), also pray for wife Carrie and the family. Mike will be returning to L.A. soon for an MRI and possible minor surgery.
  - **Dan Myers** is cleared to start radiation treatments in a few weeks.
  - **Henry Rounville** recent heart attack and cancer surgery. Also pray for Henry's sister Caroline.
  - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army) He will be visiting Stateside next month.
  - **Jerry Lowe (recovery from heart attack and connection with a church in Las Vegas)**
  - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer,)
  - **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave Merrill**- liver cancer
  - **Steve Noble** (lung transplant) out of ICU, still in hospital.
  - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal 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.