



Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th St., Arthur, IL 61911-1303



The "Sower"

March 29, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am

Morning Worship-10:30 am

Evening Worship—6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study---1:30 pm

WELCOME to today's

Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a **VISITOR**, we especially appreciate your decision to meet with us. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.

Have you checked our web site lately?

www.arthurchurchofchrist.com

Be sure to visit the "Apologetics Press" link, now in both English and Spanish. Also newly added: Sermon Outlines and "Family Minutes" (Dale Smith).



IN OUR PRAYERS: Paul continues to have both good days and not-so-good days.

They hope to be returning home from their daughter's in Michigan in either April or May. *** Continue to remember Rodger, Dean, Inez, Lyla, Lester, Mary's mother, Doris's niece (Kellie), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis and Mary Carter (Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought, and a solution to the nation's financial problems.

"Why are thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalms 62:11).

This is The Word of God



I Believe It!

"WE WOULD SEE JESUS—ON THE HOLY MOUNT" will be this

morning's message, with Matthew 17:1-9 as the reading. This evening, it being the last Sunday of the month, we will have our monthly **SONG SERVICE**. Let me know of any selections you may have.

THIS MORNING'S BIBLE CLASS will begin a study of the gospel of Mark.

GIVING BACK TO GOD WHAT IS HIS

There was a church that had a parking problem. It was right next door to a store that was closed on Sunday. They asked the owner if they could use his parking lot. He said that they could use it for 51 Sundays out of the year that it would be chained off one week each year. They were happy with the deal, but curious why it would be chained off that one Sunday. He explained that he just wanted them to remember that it wasn't *their* parking lot!

You know, there's a lot of wisdom there. Because if you use something long enough, you tend to assume that it's yours. But everything we have belongs to God. God wants us to remember that. He told Israel that one day

they would be richly blessed. But He warned them: "Otherwise, remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

Think about it. Is it harder to give up something of your own or give someone back what is already his? If I need to haul some stuff around, I might need to borrow a friend's pickup truck for a while. Suppose I kept it for a day or two. Then I give it back to him. Is that hard to do? No. Here's a truck that's worth thousands of dollars and I'm just giving it to him? Sure, it's easy to give it to him because it's not mine; it belongs to my friend.

What we have belongs to God: it's His stuff to begin with! He blesses us by letting us use it, but it's still His. And when we understand that, giving to God becomes a lot easier.

Someone has said that "As long as a man thinks that he owns what he has, then the church will always appear to him as a beggar appealing to him to part with what he has to meet her needs. But once a man realizes that he owns nothing, but owes everything, and even his life is given him in trust, then a proper proportion of his blessings will be given back to God."

(God says): "If I were hungry, I would not tell you. For the world is Mine, and all it contains" (Psalms 50:2).
--A. Smith

(I failed to note who sent me the above via e-mail, but to whoever sent it: Thank you. While we usually think of this principle in contributing of our financial means, we should not limit it to that. Some find it difficult to share even an hour or two out of 168 hours per week in assembling with God's people in study of His word and worship. Others have abilities, all of which are received from God, but use them exclusively for their personal benefit. Truly, life itself is God's gift, but too few are those who have dedicated their lives to God, and to God's Son who gave His all for them. Are you withholding from God that which is His? --Ron)

WHATEVER IT TAKES

A motivational speaker once said there are two kinds of people in this world: those who say, "whatever" and those who say, "whatever it takes." "Whatever" is the response of the shrug. It's "a "who cares?" attitude, one of indifference and apathy. "Whatever it takes" is the response of the committed. It's a "can do" attitude that refuses to give up or give in.

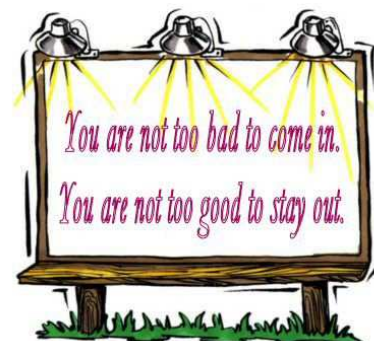
Think about those two responses when it comes to the church's mission.. Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself. "Whatever." Jesus said to go into all the world and preach the gospel. "Whatever." Jesus said to seek His kingdom first. "Whatever."

Now let's change that response to "Whatever it takes." Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself. "Whatever it takes." Jesus said to go into all the world and preach the gospel. "Whatever it takes." Jesus said to seek His kingdom first. "Whatever it takes."

Are you and I like Paul, willing to do whatever it takes (within the boundaries of God's law) to win the world to Christ? "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

--Tom Moore, Temple, Tex.

DEFINITION: "Taxpayer: One who does not have to pass a civil service examination to work for the government."



LINCOLN

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved the many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.” (April 11, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln’s Proclamation for a **National day of fasting, humiliation and Prayer**)

Remember the words of Solomon? “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

While we’re giving quotes, here’s another for you to contemplate:

“Life cannot be divided into compartments in some of which God is involved and in others of which He is not involved; there cannot be one kind of language in the church and another kind of language in the shipyard or the factory or the office; there cannot be one kind of conduct in the church and another kind of conduct in the business world. The fact is that God does not need to be invited into certain departments of life, and kept out of others. He is everywhere, all through life and in every activity of life. He hears not only the words which are spoken in His name: He hears all words; and there cannot be any such thing as a form of words which evades bringing God into any transaction. We will regard all promises as sacred if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God.” (William Barclay)

“ *A nation that is morally dead will soon be financially dead*” (Calvin Coolidge)

