



Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

April 12, 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).

SICK LIST: Paul, Dean, Inez, Lyla, Lester, Rodger, Woody, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.). Doris's niece (Kellie) is improving. and has returned to work.

"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations" (Psalms 23:27-28).

"HE WHO WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE AGAIN" will be this morning's message, the final message in our **"We Would See Jesus"** series. The text will be Rev. 1:9-18. This evening's lesson will be, **"Faith As Paul Knew It,"**

as we examine various aspects of Paul's faith, an example for us.

SHALL WE LIVE AGAIN?

"If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14) was a question of Job's, and one that has haunted all men throughout the world in every age. Only in extreme circumstances would any contemplate his or her death with pleasant anticipation. We seek to prolong our lives through avoidance of bad habits, getting proper nutrition, seeking medical help, not engaging in risky behavior, etc., all the time realizing that the Bible is true when it states, "It is appointed unto men once to die..." (Heb. 9:27). Multiplied millions of dollars are spent annually in research in the various sciences with the hopes of conquering diseases that shorten life, but death still reigns.

But what then? Is death the final conqueror? Is man but the eternal loser? While man has sought an answer to the question, none has been as assuring as that given by Jesus to His disciples: *"Because I live, ye shall live also"* John 14:19). Our destiny is not to join a band of wandering ghosts, nor to be reincarnated in some other earthly life as another human being or an insect, but rather to have a part in the resurrection to life promised to those who have placed their trust in Jesus. Our assurance is found, not in theories and denominational creeds, but in the literal and historic resurrection of Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:14 gives us promise: "If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." To John on the island of Patmos, Jesus said, "I have the keys of hell (hades, the spirit-abode of the deceased) and of death" (Rev.. 1:18). The apostle Paul based his confidence in our resurrection upon the reality

of the resurrection of Christ, saying, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.... If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain: ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.... For since by man (Adam) came death, by man (Christ) came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-18, 21-22).

The fact that "all shall be made alive" is of no consolation, however, to those who are without Christ as their hope. All will be raised, but not all will share in the eternal life that is promised only to true believers. Paul spoke of "a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust" (Acts 24:15b). Jesus had said, "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29). To be among those raised to life, we must, by faith, be identified with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. The affirmation of John 3:16 still holds true: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." This faith is to be confirmed in one's repentance, confession of faith and baptism (immersion), trusting Christ to save us through the blood of His cross (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:20-21). To seek eternal life apart from Christ is to seek in vain, for Jesus claimed, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me" (John 14:6). Have you obeyed Him, accepting Him into your life as Savior and Lord? --Ron

A TIMELY THOUGHT FOR MID-APRIL:

"The IRS is twice as large as the CIA and five times as large as the FBI. The current tax code also forces the average American family to pay more in taxes than on food, clothing and shelter combined." (*Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune*)

AN ODOR

Do you smell? Paul did, and so all the saints of the Lord (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). The smell,

Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, houses, cars, things, money and

however, is not one related to bathing, but one related to teaching. Some people look at Christians and say they stink to "high-heaven"! Why is that? Is that a good thing?

If Christians are teaching the truth of God, no matter how others describe them, it is a good thing because God is glorified. It might very well be the case, on the other hand, that the one ascribing a nasty odor to the Christian is guilty of sin and does not like being reminded of it. Some will look at the Christian and be favorably impressed; they are impressed because the truth of God had been taught without the mixture of man-made doctrines. Paul looked upon himself this sort of way; he knew that some looked upon him as a burden to society and he also knew that some looked at him as a messenger of God. How do you look at Christians and how do others look at you as a Christian? --Ron Thomas, Sullivan

"COMPLAINING"

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups—porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive, and some exquisite—telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

After all the former students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups and then began eyeing each other's cups."

position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of

cup we have does not define nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee.

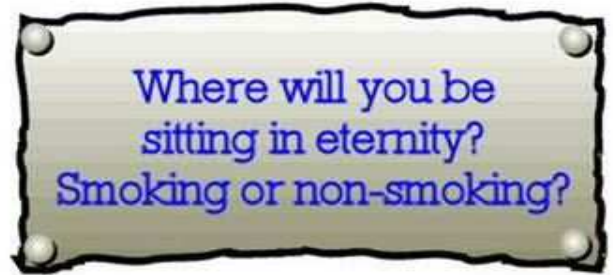
Enjoy your coffee. Being happy doesn't mean everything's perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections.
—CyberSalt Digest

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."

(Francis Bacon)

CLOTHED PROPERLY

While Jesus Christ is God's Son and was the sinless one by holy righteousness, he was called by God to commit himself to God's creative and redemptive will by being baptized by John. Though sinless, and in no need of personal repentance, Jesus justified God's judgment on a nation that needed to repent. Jesus was a part of this nation. He joined them in a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. In being baptized, Jesus not only accepted God's assessment of Israel's state; he not only identified himself with his sinful family, he also saw that identification as having its place in God's redeeming action and so he insisted on fulfilling all righteousness. (Mark 1:4; Matthew 3:13–17). You can see this illustrated in Galatians 3:26–27. In 3:26 Paul insists that the Galatians are sons of God "through faith" in Christ Jesus and goes on to say, "All of you who were united with Christ in baptism have been clothed with Christ. He's explaining that they became children of God not by commitment to the law of Moses because it wasn't into Judaism or into the Jewish community they had been baptized; it was Christ they were baptized into and it was Christ with whom they were clothed. They hadn't come into a particular ethnic, cultural or social society by faith. They entered Christ in whom all that divides and segregates humans is done away with. —Kemp church bulletin, 7-26-08



LIGHTER SIDE

- Hot Air Hand Dryers: My Pastor friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the rest room at his church and after two weeks, took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."
- Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. Albert Einstein
- Three things make us happy and content: the seeing eye, the hearing ear, the responsive heart.

Via Highway Church of Christ, Sullivan, IL