



# Arthur Church of Christ

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



## The "Sower"

## August 23, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

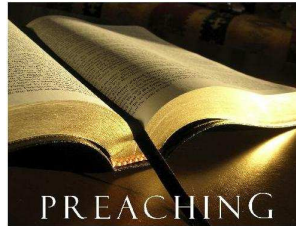
### Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am

Morning Worship-10:30 am

Evening Worship---6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study---6:00 pm



**SEEING JESUS** will be the morning's message, and Matt. 16:13-16 will be the text. This evening's lesson will be another in our series on **Worship: *The Nature of Worship***. The text will

be John 4:24.

**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](http://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).

**BIRTHDAY POTLUCK AND SINGING:** Next Sunday we will have a potluck following morning services recognizing those with September birthdays. The last-Sunday-of-the-month **SONG SERVICE** will follow. We will not meet that evening.

## CONSIDER THIS

### PRAYER

#### CONCERNS:

Continue to remember Paul, Lester, Woody, Rodger, Inez, Linda, Mary's mother, Sammie's brother-in-

law, Inez's sister (Guinn), Judy Baumgartner (wife of Lyle B., an elder at the Highway church, Mattoon) who is on chemotherapy for cancer, our daughter-in-law (Crystal) who is recovering from shoulder-surgery (plus other possible health problems), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Ind.), our service men and women, and the rulers of our nation and other nations as a way for peace is sought.



- **Blessed** is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us worthy evidence of the fact. (George Eliot)
- **Were we** directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we would soon want bread. (Thomas Jefferson)
- **Sign** in front of a service station: Taxes collected here-federal, state and local. We also sell gasoline.
- **A man** has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this, a knowledge of the Bible. (Woodrow Wilson)

--Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune

# GOING TO CHURCH

For most of us, the idea of going to church is as much a part of our lives as eating lunch. Attending the worship services is something that is important to many people, and they feel as if something is missing if for some reason they miss attending worship. But there is an important question: Do you enjoy going to church?

There are many people who always look forward to Sunday. They genuinely enjoy taking advantage of the opportunity to worship God each Lord's Day.. They arrive ready to worship and leave feeling uplifted or at least challenged to use that week to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and labor in His vineyard. These people never complain about the weather, the preacher, the temperature in the auditorium, the crying babies, or their own ailments. They make it a point to arrange their schedules so that nothing will hinder them from being in attendance. They sing wholeheartedly, listen intently, give generously and commune thoroughly with their Lord and their brethren.

On the other hand there are those few who are never satisfied with going to church. They seem to find something wrong with everything and everybody. They seem bored with the services. They never sing, never give and never spend any time in fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ. One preacher commented that there was a brother who slept through every sermon. The preacher blamed himself until he realized that this brother was asleep before he had ever said a word. According to this preacher, he may not have received much spiritual uplift from the services, but he always left refreshed.

The question is: Why are some like the Psalmist who said, I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1), while others are like the people in Malachi's day who complained, behold what a weariness is it. (Malachi 1:13)? Is it the way in which the services are conducted? That is possible, but my experience has been that that is rarely the problem. The

problem is almost always one of attitude. Preparation for Sunday worship should begin on Monday and continue until worship time begins. If we tune our hearts to prepare and provide the Lord with a proper spiritual sacrifice, then each Sunday will be seen as a blessing, yet one more opportunity to praise the God of our salvation. It is also true that our interest in and appreciation of worship is in direct proportion to how much we have invested in it. Think what God has invested in us. Let us, then, worship gladly. Robert N. Lambert, *The Main Street Harbinger*, Milan, Tenn.

**(IT IS SAD** that Christians, without good reason, would begrudge the Lord even an hour or two of one day per week especially considering the fact that He designed it for our blessing. Hebrews 10:25 was written to remind lax Christians of the need for assembly as a body of believers: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. This past week I printed out an article from the Internet on the practice of a Church of England congregation in Barbourne, Worcester, in order to entice more men to attend even on Fathers Day; handed bottles of beer by children during the service. The possibility of encouraging more in attending throughout the year, had led clergy to offer a range of incentives today, including free beer, bacon rolls, and chocolate bars. How the Lord must weep! --Ron)

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## TRUTH

There is no relationship with God that is not built on truth! (John 4:24) The Bible insists that truth exists, that it can be known and that it matters now and for all eternity! Why is spiritual truth so important?

- 1) **Truth precedes salvation.** Jesus insisted that it is knowing the truth which sets us free (John 8:32). In 2 Thessalonians 2:43, Paul insists that God has chosen us for salvation through *faith in the truth*.

- 2) **Truth provides stability to faith.** Paul says in Ephesians 4:13 that we are able to mature spiritually and arrive at the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ when we attain *the knowledge of the Son of God*. The result is that we are *no longer children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, but speaking the truth in love, we grow up into Him, who is the head, even Christ.* (Eph. 4:14-15).
- 3) **Truth permits spiritual survival.** Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.* Man says, What you don't know can't hurt you. God says, What you don't know will destroy you.
- 4) **Truth produces freedom** (John 8:32). Truth sets us free from religious error and confusion. It also sets us free from superstition and ignorance. But above all, truth sets us free from the bondage to sin. Sin is slavery! (John 8:34) It ruins lives, breaks up homes, destroys nations, and causes untold suffering.

Flannery O'Connor wisely observed: *Truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.* Truth is there. It can be known. It must be obeyed!

If we want to spend eternity with God, it is essential that we *learn* the truth, *love* the truth, and *live* the truth. *The Seeker*

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## HOW MUCH DO YOU OWN IN THAT DIRECTION?

George Washington Truett was a preacher in Dallas for 47 years. He once visited a wealthy West Texas rancher and had dinner in his huge ranch home. After dinner, the rancher took Dr. Truett up to a veranda on top of his house, and lit up a big cigar. The sun was setting, and if you've ever been to West Texas, you know you can see a long way out there. The man pointed to the south toward some oil rigs and said, I own

everything in that direction as far as you can see. He pointed east toward some cotton fields and said, And I own everything in that direction, too. He pointed north toward a huge herd of cattle and bragged, and preacher, I own everything as far as you can see in that direction. He turned to the west, and said, and I own everything you can see in that direction, except the sun, of course.

Dr.. Truett turned to the man and pointed straight up in the sky and said, and how much do you own in **that** direction.

It's a sobering question for all of us. We are surrounded constantly by the things of this world, and it is so easy to think that these things are the things that matter most a nice car, a nice home, nice clothes (and don't forget all the necessary electronic gadgets!). And so, if we are not careful, we may seek to accumulate more and more, without regard to our relationship with God. As the rich fool discovered in **Luke 12**, we will all one day be forced to recognize that the material things we have accumulated have no eternal value..

Jesus said, Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).

How much do you own in **that** direction?

--Source forgotten

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