



# “The Sower”

December 20, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

## Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am  
Morning Worship-10:30 am  
Evening Worship—6:00 p  
Wed. Bible Study---1:30 pm

**MAY THE LORD GRANT ALL OUR "THE SOWER" READERS A GREAT CHRISTMAS, WITH GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.**

## “Why Do We Need a Savior?”

It is that time of year again when people focus on buying and giving gifts, spending time with family, and remembering their blessings. It is also a time of year that we remember to help those who are less fortunate than we. Let’s not forget it is a time of year that most people, religious or not, think about Jesus. That can only be a good thing.

The Bible teaches its readers that we should remember our blessings and our Lord every day instead of once or twice a year. Sadly, people are so busy with every day life and constant problems, that Jesus is not a priority for remembrance.

The reason for the season is to remember Christ and all that He brings to man. We should remember more than His birth and His humble beginnings. We should remember that He was born to die. After all, that was His only reason for coming to Earth...to die, resurrect, and save man from his sins.

An eleven-year-old girl once asked, “I am writing a paper on why we need a Savior. I want to explain the answer in such a way, all of my classmates will understand.” In 1 Peter 3:15, we are told to always be ready to give an answer. What would your answer be to this young girl’s question?

The first thing that comes to mind is man has always needed saving from something. Heroes like the Lone Ranger, Batman, Superman, etc. have always come to the rescue to save man from evil. Spiritually, the idea is the same. Man cannot save himself. Therefore, we need a SAVIOR...Jesus

**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).

## SERMONS



“**JESUS, OUR SAVIOR**” will be this morning’s message, Matt. 1:21-23 as the reading. The evening lesson will be, “*Gifts for Jesus,*” the text being Matt. 2:1-11.



Donna (following surgery; anticipating chemo); Paul, (Mich.)Lester, Inez, Linda, Rodger, Lyla, Mary’s mother, my niece, Paula Sneed

(pondering liver replacement while in ill health, Ind.), Charles Moore (TX), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as a way for peace is sought.

**Note From Ron & Doris:** Doris and I wish to express our desire and prayer that the Lord grant you a joyous and safe Holiday Season. As we rapidly draw toward the end of 2009, and anticipate the approach of a new year, we pray that our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, will enable each of us to close out the old year and enter the new year with renewed commitment to His service. God bless you. -Ron & Doris

“When Christmas is over,” said a merchant to a minister, “it’s over, and it’s our job to rid this store completely of Christmas in a day.”

“Well,” said the minister. “I’ve a bigger job—to keep Christmas in the hearts of my people for a lifetime.”

Christ.. In Romans 3:22-23, we are told that every man sins and in I John 1, we are told if we say we do not sin we are a liar. We need a savior to redeem us from our sins.

Secondly, Isaiah 59:2 tells us our sins separate us from God. When this occurs, John 9:31 reminds us that God does not hear a sinner. With these things in mind, we need to be brought back to the Father.

Third, we need to remember the Prodigal Son. He left the Father, went into the world committing sin, was separated from the Father, and realized he needed to come back. That is what Jesus can do for us. We need to be reunited with God. Acts 4:12 tells us there is salvation in no other name than the name of Jesus. Galatians 3 tells us when we are baptized we are in Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by ME." Every man sins. Sin separates us from God. We need to be brought back to God. Jesus is our way back. Why do we need a Savior? So we can reign with God eternally! Make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior and remember Him everyday!  
--Jason Wright, Collinsville, IL

*God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?*

## ANCIENT CHRISTIAN HYMN

### *Of the Father's love begotten*

*Ere the worlds begun to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending be,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore,  
O that birth for ever blessed!  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Saviour of our race:  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.  
O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
Angel hosts, his praises sing:  
Powers, dominions bow before him,  
And extol our God and King:  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.*

--Hymn: *Corde natus ex Parentis (Of the Father's Love Begotten)* by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, about 400 A.D.

(The following is an editorial from Investors Business Daily, 12-08-09, written by a Russian immigrant. As we complain sometimes about our dour circumstances, we should consider it from the perspective of newcomers.)

## PERSPECTIVE OF A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT

I look at the people who support the transformation of American in unbelief. They are destroying the very land that gave them so much opportunity. Groomed, well-fed and educated, comfortably living in a prosperous society, they need a mission to give meaning to their lives.

These "fighters for the less-fortunate among us" glaze over the fact that hundreds of millions of people from around the world desperately try to come to this country for all it offers, regardless of their economic status, race, class, or gender. Immigrants rightly see this country as the best place to obtain a decent life for themselves and their families.

When I immigrated to America in 1980, I was overwhelmed with the amount of food and goods available at any store, at the numerous charitable organizations helping the needy, and even the government programs that helped people to obtain necessary skills to find a job. Later, I realized that the country was in the midst of a deep recession. Compared to where I came from, it seemed like the pinnacle of prosperity. As a secular Soviet Jew, my first Christmas in America was amazing. The proud display of religious symbols was a celebration not only of the holiday, but of a population free to express their beliefs without fear of oppression. I understand why at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Jewish immigrants in America wrote many beautiful Christmas songs; these songs were born out of grateful hearts. Churches and synagogues coexist without issues. Nobody is forced to practice or not practice a religion.

Soon, however, I noticed darker aspects underlying life in America. Political correctness had seeped into everything like cancer. Under the pretense of multicultural diversity, suppression and intolerance of uniquely American traditions such as liberty, private property and *e pluribus unum* (out of many, one) became not only acceptable, but necessary in supposedly enlightened society. Under the pretext of helping the needy, liberals eliminate people's drive to better themselves and their families. Instead, they obsess about events of the past and exacerbate the victim mentality in the very people they claim to help. The stranglehold of political correctness has only grown stronger. I see in today's governmental policies a replication of the very things I escaped from.

In the USSR, representatives of the Communist party—parlons (literally: party organizers)—were ingrained into every aspect of civilian, official and military life. These political organizers controlled public order by observing the behavior and speech of every citizen.