



Arthur Church of Christ

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

The "Sower"

December 6, 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).

Lessons From God's Word

"WHEN A NATION FORGETS GOD" will be this morning's message, with Deut. 8:6-20 as the text. The evening lesson will be, "Don't Lose Your Cutting Edge." The text will be 2 Kings 6:1-7, concerning one of the strangest miracles of the Old Testament.

For Your Information

TO FLORIDA: Juanita Fleenor, who has been coming from Hammond to meet with us Sunday evenings and Wednesdays, plans to leave tomorrow for Florida where she will spend the winter. Pray for her safe trip down, and her return

PRAYER LIST: Continue to remember Paul & Nadine, Lester, Inez, Linda, Rodger, Lyla, Mary's mother, 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.

JESUS NEVER QUIT!

Jesus did not quit meeting with His disciples because Judas was a thief, nor because Peter was fickle at times. He didn't quit preaching and living right because some of His brethren were unforgiving and unkind. He did not quit His post of leadership because He had in His presence the adulterous woman, a gang of Pharisees, or narrow-minded demon-worshippers. Jesus did not quit.

Have you ever quit? What is the reason for it? Any reason you might name, Jesus could have given the same. He had every reason to be discouraged. His own disciples were so slow to learn. His enemies were bent on His destruction. But He did not quit. He said: "Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). And when the end of His earthly life was in sight, Jesus said to His Father, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). He did not quit. He finished His task.

When you come to the end of life, will you say, "I finished the work God has given me to do?" Or will you be compelled to say: "I started, but quit!" Will you stand before the judgment bar of God and admit that you were a quitter? Eternal life is promised to those who endure to the end (Matt. 10:22). There will be no consolation in the judgment day to point back to your baptism unless you can also point back to a life of faithful endurance.

Quit wasn't in Jesus' vocabulary: neither should it be in ours. We need to be like Paul who, in his imitation of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), said: "Not as though I had already

attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I was apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:12-14).

--Raymond C. Kelcy, *Logansport (IN) Lifelines*

“TOLERANCE AND APATHY are the first virtues of a dying civilization.”

ON FIRE: “If I straighten the pictures on the walls of your home, I am committing no sin, am I? But suppose that your house were afire, and I still went calmly about straightening pictures, what would you say? Would you think me merely stupid or very wicked?... The world today is on fire. What are you doing to extinguish the fire?”
--Carrie ten Boom, *Amazing Love*

ABORTION—A GOD-GIVEN RIGHT?

I found it difficult to believe what I was reading! At a rally on Dec. 2 in Washington, D.C. designed to sway the Senate to include abortion on the debated health-care plan, an alleged Christian minister, Carlton Veazy, was reported by CNS News to have said, “Don’t let anybody tell you that religious people don’t support choice. You not only have a constitutional right for abortion, **but you have a God-given right.**” One has to wonder where he acquired this knowledge, enabling him to speak in behalf of God. It certainly isn’t from Scripture. It is amazing how preachers can presume to speak where God has not spoken, and then claim a divine source for such enlighten-ment! It is certainly not from the Bible which teaches that human life is “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:27), and says of children that they “are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward” (Psalms 127:3). It seems that to many, including even some claiming to be ministers of Christ, who came to give life (John 10:10), whatever may be politically correct must be pleasing to God. We must wonder who that God is that they are serving.

Two passages in particular come to mind in this situation: **“Woe unto them which call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter”** (Isaiah 5:20) and **“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment”** (James 3:1).
--Ron

“ NATURE abhors a vacuum. When a head lacks brains, nature is apt to fill it with conceit.” --Submitted by Bill Williams

FULFILL

“Don’t think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

“Fulfill” from Matthew 5:17: to make replete, that is, (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow), or (figuratively) to furnish (or imbue, diffuse, influence), satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.: - accomplish, X after, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfil, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.

Matthew 5:16 reads, “Don’t think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.” Apparently rumor stirred among the Jews that this new teacher was forecasting a removal of Moses’ law. This is a misunderstanding. What did the people think the purpose of the law was? There wasn’t anything wrong with the law. Romans 7 has an apostle stating, “That is, the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.” The law was given by God. Surely God wouldn’t give anything unjust to people. We know this is true. Why then was there misunderstanding? Bad teaching. That’s why. People were being taught incorrectly about the law. Jews were assigning a role for the law that God never intended. They were thinking that the law brought them salvation and righteousness, but the law was only like a mirror that revealed imperfections and assessed penalty (Romans 6:23).

God’s covenant with Abraham involved a promised seed (Christ) (Genesis 12:3). Therefore all people who would trust in that seed would receive salvation, freedom from imperfection and penalty. Salvation was the reason Jesus came to earth. Galatians 3:19 states that the law was “added” until the seed should come. That is, the law of Moses, a covenant with the nation of Israel, was attached to the covenant made with Abraham. This covenant of law did not make void God’s covenant with Abraham. Each covenant served different purposes. Abraham’s covenant was to ensure salvation for all people dwelling on the earth. Moses’ covenant was a covenant that served Abraham’s covenant. Moses’ covenant was to lead people to that salvation. Salvation came through Jesus, not through the law that was added.

The law was added to Abraham’s covenant so that people might see their sinfulness and turn to God in repentance. The law was like a mirror that would reflect imperfections. Imperfections require removal. However, no one can remove the perfections or penalties. The prophets foretold of one who would be able to do just this! Jesus didn’t come to remove the mirror. He came to remove the imperfection and penalty, to fulfill God’s law.

Ty Nichols, Kemp church, Arcola, IL