

“The Sower” February 14, 2010



Ron Bartanen, Minister

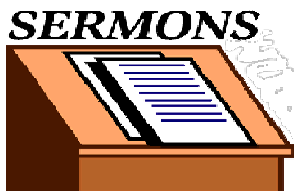
Times of Worship

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

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



“TRAVELING LIGHT” will be this morning’s message, with Heb. 12:1-2 as the text. The evening lesson will be, **“The Church—Its Character, Privileges and Prospects.”** The text will be Eph. 2:1-10.

NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY: I hope shortly to update our Members & Friends list. If you have any changes, such as cell-phone numbers, let me know.



PRAYER CONCERNS: Continue to remember Paul, Lester, Donna, Linda, Inez, Lyla, Mary’s mother, Linda’s nephew, Doris’s sister (Louise, doing well so far with chemo treatments), Doris’s niece (Diane), my niece (Paula), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as peace is sought.

POVERTY: “The average man, woman or child living in a repressed or mostly unfree economy lives a life of poverty on only about \$2,800 a year. Compare this with the prosperous residents of the world’s free economies, where the average per capita income is \$21,200, or nearly eight times greater. Put simply, the difference between poverty and prosperity is freedom.”

--WSJ, via Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune, 1-16-'08

LIGHT A FIRE

“for this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (2 Timothy 1:6-7).

God had given Timothy a spiritual gift to use in his ministry. For some reason Timothy had timidly failed to use this gift to its fullest advantage for the cause of Christ. Perhaps he was afraid to speak the gospel as boldly as he ought (Col. 4:2-4). Paul felt it necessary to push Timothy to fire up his gifts for God!

It is easy to allow the worldliness of the world to discourage our hearts. When we feel as if we have made little progress, we may easily lose heart (Gal. 6:10). Our struggles, however, should not hinder us in the work of God. “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Let us stir up in our hearts a flame of faith! Let’s reaffirm what we believe, why we believe it, and in Whom we believe. This is not the time for retreat or losing heart! This is a time to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ!

Let us stir up in our hearts a flame for evangelism! Let us pray for God to open up a door for the Word throughout the land (Col. 4:2-4). Let us be soul-sensitive to our neighbors, realizing that many of them are without God and without hope (Eph. 2:12).

Let us stir up in our hearts a flame of love for souls! God has committed to us a ministry of reconciliation, a ministry to help people become friends to God once again (2 Cor. 5:16-19). We are in the soul-winning business for the Lord!

--The above is the major part of an article by Phil Sanders in *The Search Light*, Feb. '10, bulletin of *In Search of the Lord’s Way*. Visit their website at: www.searchtv.org.



Read Your Bible Each and Every Day!

WHAT WE PRAY FOR

A mother sent her fifth-grade boy up to bed. In a few minutes she went to make sure that he was getting in bed. When she stuck her head into his room, she saw that he was kneeling beside his bed in prayer. Pausing to listen to his prayers, she heard her son praying over and over again, "Let it be Tokyo! Please, dear God, let it be Tokyo!"

When he finished his prayers, she asked him, "What did you mean, 'Let it be Tokyo'?"

"Oh," the boy said with embarrassment, "we had our geography exam today and I was praying that God would make Tokyo the capital of France."

Prayer is not a magical means by which we get God to do what we want. While God desires that we bring our petitions to Him, He has not promised to give us everything that our hearts desire. In fact, if an earthly father were to do that to a child ("Oh, you want to touch the hot stove? God ahead!"), we would consider that father guilty of child abuse. We realize that a godly father sorts through the needs and the wants of his child and ultimately decides to give his child what is in his best interest and what will bring that child the most happiness in the long run.

William Temple was right when he said, "We do not pray in order to change His will, but to bring our own wills into harmony with His." As we make our requests to God, we remain open to the idea that God may have something better in mind for us. His purpose may be fulfilled in our lives in a way we cannot even imagine. So, if we pray as we ought, we come away feeling blessed, knowing that God has received our petition, but confident as well, knowing that if God knows a better path for our lives, He will lead us in that direction.

"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.'" (Luke 22:41-42)

--Alan Smith, Highway church, Sullivan, Bulletin

SHEEP DON'T WALLOW

There was a lamb and its mother. The lamb passed a pigpen each morning on the way to the pasture with its mother. Watching the pigs wallow in the mud seemed like such fun, and on an especially hot day the lamb asked his mother if he could jump the fence and wallow in the cool mud. She replied, "No."

Then the lamb asked, "Why".

The mother just replied, "Sheep don't wallow!"

This didn't satisfy the lamb. He felt she was just over-restrictive. So as soon as the mother was out of sight, the lamb jumped the fence and ran to the pigpen. He was soon feeling the cool mud on his feet, his legs, and soon his stomach. After a few moments, he decided he had better go back to his mother, but he couldn't. He was stuck.

Mud and wool don't mix. His pleasure had become his prison. He cried out and was rescued by the kindly farmer. When cleaned and returned to the field, his mother said, "Remember: sheep don't wallow."

Sin is like that. It looks so nice, we may think we can escape when we wish, but it is not so. Pleasures often become prisons.
-Logansport (IN) Lifelines

BEES OUTSMART SCIENTISTS

Scientists have long recognized that bees are intelligent creatures. Many believe that this intelligence is the product of millions of years of natural selection. But the extremely fast learning ability of the bee puts in doubt the millions of years and instead shows the hand of the Creator.

Researchers at Princeton University decided to find out whether bees were smart enough to find their food source if it was moved. The researchers moved the prime food source fifty meters farther from the hive. It took the bees less than one minute to locate the moved food source. The men then moved the food source another fifty meters away. The bees still took less than a minute to find the food source. Two more moves, each a precise fifty meters, produced the same results.

However, the bees had also been studying the researchers. Before the researchers could move the food another fifty meters, they found the bees had discovered the pattern and were already waiting at the new location!

God is the Creator and has clearly left evidence of His handiwork—His fingerprints in the creation itself. For those who have eyes to see, this fills us with wonder, and yes, with love for the Creator God who first loved us.

--House to House/Heart to Heart

MONEY WILL BUY....

A bed, but not sleep;

Books, but not brains;

Food, but not appetite;

Finery, but not beauty;

A house, but not a home;

Medicine, but not health;

Luxuries, but not culture;

Fun, but not happiness;

Religion, but not salvation.