



“The Sower” February 28, 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

Ladies Day at Lakeside Church of Christ

Saturday: March 13, 2010
 65 Rita Rd. Springfield, IL 62712
 Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

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

“**SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE**” will be this morning’s lesson, with Hebrews 11:27 for the text. **OUR MONTHLY SONG SERVICE** will be this evening.

THE POTTERS CHILDREN’S HOME VAN will be in our area the week of March 14. Items requested are canned almond milk, white grape juice, canned salmon, Kix cereal, and liquid laundry detergent. Contributions by check would also be welcomed. I will take all donated items to Sullivan the night of the 14th, to await the van. Be sure to have everything here by that day.

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.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY to Sammie (5th), Rodger (22nd), Lyla (4th), and Nadine (6th).

A NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS LIST is now available on the stand in the foyer. It is a list of all who have been attending recently, and shut-in members, with addresses, phone numbers, birthdays and anniversaries. Take a copy home and keep it close to your phone.

Read Your Bible Each and Every Day!

PRAY FOR: Donna underwent emergency surgery Tuesday at SBL Hospital. An ulcer had eaten a hole through the stomach, and through an artery. She is doing well, and is in room 474. *** Continue to remember Paul, Lester, Rodger, Inez, Lyla, Mary’s mother, Linda’s nephew (chemo), Doris’s sister (Louise, chemo), my niece, Charles Moore (Tex.), and Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.). Doris’s niece (Kellie) asks prayer for her fiancé, Mike Dammrich. Pray that the tumor in the jaw not be cancerous. *** Also, continue to remember our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as peace is sought.

GLORIFYING GOD ON THE EARTH

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, “*I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*”

It is one thing to glorify God in heaven, and another to glorify Him “on the earth.” It would not be difficult to understand the Son glorifying His Father in the heavenlies—God’s domain. But it was another thing for Him to successfully glorify Him on earth—a planet of God’s creation in rebellion to the will of God. It is God’s desire that heaven and earth join together in praise. The purpose of all creation is to glorify God. The psalmist declared, “Let the heaven and earth praise Him, the seas, and everything that moveth therein” (Psa. 69:34). But since Eden, “the whole world lies in wickedness (lit., the wicked one)” (1 John 5:19). Satan reigns as “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Thus we see a world that is full of rebellion and confusion. We see an earth that “groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Rom. 8:22).

With the coming of Jesus into this world, it could be said that for the first time God’s will was done “in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). The means by which Jesus glorified the Father was that He “finished the work” which the Father had given Him to do. God is glorified in obedience to His will. Jesus said, “I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38). God is not glorified in the earth as man continues to live outside His will. If we would glorify God in the earth, it will only be as

we follow the example of Jesus. The apostle Peter wrote believers, saying, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:21-22).

While, as Christians, we look forward with hope to the day in which we will glorify the Father in heaven, let us realize that He would first of all desire that we glorify Him "on the earth."
--Ron

DRAGGING SIN AROUND

"Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes, who say: 'Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it: let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!'" Isaiah 5:18-19)

This is an interesting passage because it addresses those who think their individual sin will not find them out. They no more think that they can hide their sin, only to not realize that the Lord has already seen it—before it was even committed! This is why the pronouncement of a warning. Dragging sin around, as if it was a wagon to be pulled, is failing to see that sins accumulate (if you will) and the burden of carrying (or pulling) becomes more difficult with each step. In a matter of time, the heavy burden prevents us from moving forward. The weight is too much. This is bad enough, but when society looks at sin as something to be flaunted, it is merely a matter of time before the arrogant society is destroyed. All one has to do is look at history itself. When the foundations are destroyed, what will the righteous do? They will suffer as the wicked.

—Ron Thomas, Sullivan

THINGS THE THINGS KIDS SAY!

I received this from the internet:

"My young grandson called the other day to wish me a Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "Sixty two." My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at one?"

DEFINITION: CHURCHASAURUS

Churchasaurus: This species of dinosaurs were known for their faithfulness to gather as a herd to worship God. Characteristics of a churchasaurus were being kind and helpful to all dinosaurs.

Churchasaurus first became endangered, then later extinct, due to individual churchasaurus becoming weak from not gathering with the herd. Eventually their natural enemies were able to pick off these weaker members till the species was eliminated.

"Encourage one another every day, as long as it is called today"

—Does God Exist? Magazine, Jan.-Feb. '07

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC?

While mega-churches (and others) flourish with rock bands, and others content themselves with the more conservative organs and pianos, Churches of Christ are looked upon by some as being antiquated, relying only upon human voices blended together in worship of God without the supposed benefit of instruments. Some believe us to be out of touch with what appeals to worshippers today.

What many fail to realize is that the introduction of organs and other instruments is really without scriptural authority, and has been generally accepted only in comparatively recent years. Churches of Christ seek to maintain a congregational worship that is both edifying and in accord with the practice of the church of the first century. With the modern trend to please the world, there is always a tendency to compromise our convictions that we may be more readily accepted by society at large, rather than to respect the authority of scripture for all that we teach and practice.

This past week I received from two sources the following quotation from a book published over 120 years ago. The book, *Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews*, volume 1:527, Toronto, by the Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd. 1889, was written by D.B. Cameron. It makes it apparent that the use of the instrument in public worship was at that time a controversial issue. The point made in the quote is as applicable today as it was at that time. Mr. Cameron observed:

"Though Presbyterian churches have decided to permit the use of organs, yet seeing the apostolic church did not use any musical instruments, its practice is of more weight in the matter than all the modern churches in Christendom. Indeed such instruments were not introduced into the church before the seventh century, when it became very corrupt, because it had greatly departed from the simplicity of the gospel. It is only within this present century that the Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist and Methodist churches began to follow this sensuous practice. The supposed unanimity in this matter is of too short duration to have much reasonable weight."

Why should Christians not be content with the simplicity of worship enjoined under apostolic authority? Such worship from the beginning is described as a steadfast continuance in "the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42), and, as Paul directed, ""speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). Only the influence of the world could make us forsake such sacred simplicity.

—Ron