



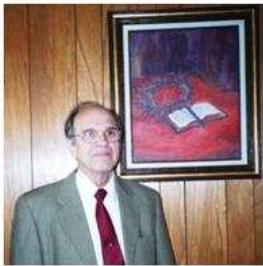
Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

July 26, 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 p.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 Smith).

"**WHAT CHRIST SHOULD BE TO US**" will be this morning's message, with Matt. 11:28-30 as the text.

OUR MONTHLY SONG SERVICE will be this evening. Song-selections would be welcomed.

PRAY FOR: Lester is now a resident at Arthur Home, room 51. *** Jeremy continues to improve. *** Linda's 17-year-old great-niece had surgery for removal of a tumor, and at last report is doing well. *** Continue to remember Paul, Woody, Inez, Linda, Rodger, Lester, Mary's mother, 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.

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION REVISES "GAY GENE" THEORY

A common argument put forth by those who would support homosexuality and same-sex marriage has been the "gay gene" theory—that homosexuals are "born that way." And, it is argued, if God designed them that way, surely He wouldn't be too upset at their living the way God made them. Of course, if this reasoning is logical, what of others who would claim that their sexual orientation, with which they were born, is toward young children or a multiple number of sex-partners? But the fact of the matter is that science, contrary to claims, has found no such genetic evidence to support it. An article by Charlie Botts in OneNewsNow, dated May 14, '09, reports that the American Psychological Association (APA) now acknowledges that evidence has not been found to support the "gay gene" theory. A quote from an APA brochure, "Answers to your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation & Homosexuality," acknowledges, "Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors." This is in sharp contrast to the APA's statement in 1998: "There is considerable recent evidence to suggest that biology, including genetic or inborn hormonal factors, play a significant role in a person's sexuality."

For the past 10 years the “gay gene” theory has been set forth as a propaganda tool to justify in people’s minds this unnatural sexual orientation. The “gay agenda” is more readily acceptable in people’s minds when scientific studies are declared to support their claims. After all, it is reasoned, if skin color is a matter of genetics, and sexual orientation is a matter of genetics, then both should be recognized as normal. As proven in the lives of many, however, is the fact that while one cannot change the color of his skin, and other factors with which he is born, one who has been caught up in homosexuality can change. As observed by *Liberty Counsel’s* Matt Barber, “It’s irrefutable from a medical standpoint that people can leave the homosexual lifestyle. Homosexuality is defined by behavior. Untold thousands of people have found freedom from that lifestyle through either reparative therapy or through—frankly, most effectively—a relationship with Jesus Christ.” He also said, “Change through Christ is possible—and it’s one of the most heartwarming aspects of the whole gay debate. Many men and women have come out of homosexuality, mostly through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The fact that these professional organizations will not study that, will not acknowledge that, shows how ‘in the tank’ they are for the homosexual movement.”

It is conceivable that with the proposed upcoming “hates crime legislation,” the facts on the issue will be buried, lest the revealing of them should be interpreted as an attack on the homosexual community.. While hate can never be justified, neither can obstinate refusal to face reality and the plain teaching of Scripture. With the help available to the child of God, victory over the flesh and its addictions is always available. As Paul wrote the Corinthians, reminding them of their past life-styles, including some who had been “homosexuals”, and “sodomites” (1 Corinthians 6:9, NKJV), reminding them in verse 11: “and such were some of you,. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” It is not hate, nor is it homophobia, nor bigotry, to stand for the truth, and to warn those who stray of the perilous position they are in if they persist in a lifestyle condemned by the word of God. Let us not be intimidated by

the world and its pressures upon us to conform. Let us always heed the admonition of the apostle Paul, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2, NKJV). –Ron

NOT OF YOURSELVES?

The Scriptures plainly teach that salvation is a gift from God; there is nothing in man, emotionally, mentally, or physically that can contribute to his salvation. Neither is there anything within man that he can do to *originate* his own salvation—though he tries.

Many spiritual “self-help” books fly off the shelf to give man, wandering in the desert, some direction in life. There are many TV preachers who say that salvation is ready to be received if one calls the number on the screen. When the call is made there is an appeal for money, in due course, to support what they call a ministry.

The Scriptures, on the other hand, tell us that we are saved by grace, and that our salvation is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). When we listen and obey the Lord from the heart, the gift of salvation is given to us (Romans 10:17; Acts 2:38). It was the life Jesus gave that brought us near to God (Ephesians 2:13), and it is the life of Jesus that we are to live. Rather than trying to compensate for our “failingsd”—and we all have many failings—why not turn to Jesus and not to yourselves.

--Ron Thomas, Sullivan, IL;

Highway church bulletin

Video Reveals Abortion Centers Hide Rape

Three Planned Parenthood (PP) abortion centers have been caught on camera covering up potential cases of statutory rape. The latest expose is part of a campaign initiated by

students at UCLA to determine if PP centers are following state laws.

Students posed as teenagers at the centers in Indiana and Arizona. One student told a Phoenix PP center she was 15 and pregnant by her 27-year-old boyfriend. Arizona law requires that the abortionist contact law enforcement immediately, but it was not done.

In all three cases in this investigation, PP staffers offered to help the girl avoid state abortion laws. One girl (posing as 15) was assured it is easy to avoid telling her parents about her abortion and obtain a judicial bypass by using a PP-supplied attorney.

The girl asked if her 27-year-old boyfriend could come pay for the abortion without getting into trouble.

"We don't ask any questions," the abortion provider told her. "It's only a big thing if you're 13 or under."

--*Lifenews.com*, 3-25-'09

SOMETIME AGO, the National Taxpayers Union examined all the bills introduced in Congress and found members of Congress had proposed \$43 in spending increases for every \$1 in spending cuts. (Don't you wonder what that ratio would be today? --RB)

SELF RESPECT can never be bought—but it can always be sold. --Both items from *Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune*

WHAT SHOULD YOU SEE?

There is a story of a beggar who was sitting across the street from an artist's studio. The artist saw him and thought he would make an interesting portrait study. So, from a distance he painted the defeated man whose shoulders drooped, and whose eyes were downcast and sad. When he was finished, he took the portrait over to the beggar so he could look at it. "Who is that?" the beggar questioned. The painting bore a slight resemblance to himself, but in the painting before him he saw a person of dignity, with squared shoulders and bright

uplifted eyes, almost handsome. He asked the artist, "Is that me? I don't look like that." But the artist replied, "But that is the person I see in you."

Hidden in all of us is potential. We have the ability to perform great accomplishments and opportunities to make a difference. But our greatest potential of all is described by John: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:1-3). There is the amazing potential in all to be called the sons of God and to be like Jesus. We can approach this spiritual potential through our obedience to the commands of God (Heb. 5:9). Perhaps you see failure—but God sees potential! What should you see? --Tom Moore, Temple, TX