



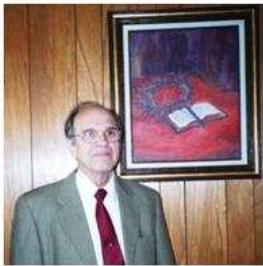
Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

June 21, 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).

"**THE FATHER AND HIS SONS**" will be this morning's lesson, with Malachi 2:10 as the text. The evening message will be, "**Turning, Serving, Waiting,**" 1 Thess. 1:9-10 being the text.

THE ARTHUR HOME service will be Tuesday, the 23rd, at 6:45.

- **PRAY FOR:** Continue to pray for Paul, Woody, Rodger, Linda, Dean, Inez, Lester, Wayne Miller (surgery, Tuesday), 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.

Happy Fathers' Day!

DADDY AND DISCIPLINE

My life of crime was nipped in the bud...my father saw to that. I remember well the day. Late in the afternoon, Daddy sent me ;;into the grocery store to pick up a loaf of bread. Once inside, my eyes fastened intently upon a barrel. This was no ordinary, run-of-the-mill barrel, ;mind you, but a whole barrel just brimming over with candy. In the evening sun those beautiful cellophane wrappers took on as many shades as Joseph's coat. Now admittedly, I did not know much about the devil, but when he told me to take some candy—I did!

How was I to know that my father was sitting in the car watching me through the plate glass window of the store? My first crime had been committed, and it was followed quickly by conviction, confession and correction. My father, with his searching hand, quickly convicted me of wrong doing. His stern voice demanded that I return the stolen merchandise and make confession of the theft to the checker. And I knew full well what kind of correction was yet to come. The drive home was about ten blocks. It seemed like a million. Once there, a few well chosen sunflower stalks were uprooted and applied unsparingly to the legs of one young thief attired in short pants. I guarantee you that I learned my lesson. I have never cared for short pants or stealing since that day!

In our permissive society we have almost dropped the word "DISCIPLINE" from our vocabulary. Is it possible that this is the very root of many of our problems today? Mr. J. Edgar Hoover once said that the two main contributing factors to juvenile delinquency are: (1) neglect at home and (2) lack of discipline.

The welfare of a youngster is never secured by removing the bridle and turning him loose in the open field. It is just not fair to our children to withhold discipline and correction.

Solomon, the wisest of men, had much to say on this subject: Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 29:15, 17.

Did I grow up to hate my father because he disciplined me? **NOT ON YOUR LIFE!** You see, I had a daddy that loved me very much! --John Gipson

THE KIND OF DAD TO BUY

*If I went shopping for a Dad,
Here is what I'd buy:
One who would always stop
To answer a little girl or boy,
One who would give sunshine and joy.
I'd pick a Dad that followed
The Bible's Golden Rule,
And one who went regularly
To church and Sunday School.
I'd buy the very finest Dad
To place on our family tree—
And then I'd try to live like him,
So he'd be proud of me.*

--Good News

BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL

"Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?'" (John 14:5).

Remember when K-mart had their blue light special? You would hear those magic words, "Attention, K-mart shoppers. Look up and look around and see the blue light flashing." People dropped everything and raced to the blue light. It was hard to imagine anyone missing it. Thomas had missed the light of Jesus. As he had walked with Jesus, Jesus showed him the Father every day. Jesus talked about the kingdom, and the cross He would have to bear. Yet, when the time came for Jesus to go, Thomas had no idea where He was going, or how to get there. Jesus reset his "GPS" for Thomas when He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one will come to the Father except through Me." Look up and look around. The light is still flashing. Are we paying attention?

--Grace for your spirit, submitted by Paul Kent

NICE BOYFRIEND

One night a teenage girl brought her new boyfriend home to meet her parents, and they were appalled by his appearance: leather jacket, motorcycle boots, tattoos and pierced nose. Later, the parents pulled their daughter aside and confessed their concern, "Dear," said the mother diplomatically, "He doesn't seem very nice."

"Oh please, Mom," replied the daughter, "if he wasn't nice, why would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"

--Cybersalt Digest

WHICH WAY?

A man visited New York City for the first time and became turned around and confused. One evening during the rush hour, he stopped at a newsstand in the heart of Times Square and asked the vendor which direction was north. "Look, buddy," he replied in a loud and annoyed voice, "We got uptown, we got downtown, and we got crosstown. We don't got north."

This is a little like modern religion today. It has lost its bearing. Some churches seem like enterprises, and others seem like concerts. Still others seem caught up in ritualism or in displaying their righteousness before men. One has to wonder where the cross is in all this. Where is north?

New Testament Christianity is first and foremost Christ and him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). Paul was crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). James would not be friends with the world (James 4:4). Peter urged Christians not to be surprised that the world would malign them (1 Peter 4:1-5), and John said the world with its lusts is passing away (1 John 2:15-17).

We must go back to the cross and stand there firm, not moved by the culture of our day or the pressure to compromise our faith for popularity. We must not give in to the substitutes for Christian faith. Real Christianity is involved with serving God, whether anyone knows it or not. Real Christianity is in dedicating ourselves to the truth, rather than accommodating the latest cultural fad.

It is the cross that saves, not culture. Let us seek the old paths and walk therein (Jeremiah 6:16).

--Phil Sanders, *The Search Light*

BY THIS YOU ARE SAVED

“By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:2).

What saves us? God does through Jesus' sacrificial life! Let's make a commitment to let nothing make us relinquish our trust and dependency upon that hope, that Gospel by which we are saved. There is no other name, no other Gospel, no other message that can give us salvation (See Acts 4:12; Galatians 1:3-9; Colossians 2:6-16). We don't need to add anything else to it. We must never let anyone take anything away from it. Let's hold firmly to this faith, this trust in God's grace given to us in Jesus!

--Lantern, Highway church, Sullivan, IL