



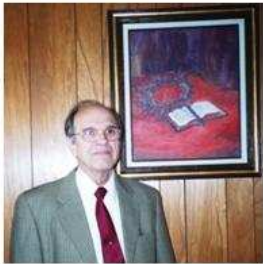
Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

May 31, 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).

"FEAR NOT THEIR FEAR" will be this morning's message, with Isaiah 8:12-15 as the text. **This evening** will be the evening for our monthly **Song Service**. Let me know of any songs you would like for us to sing.



PRAYER LIST:

Paul, Linda, Dean, Inez, Rodger, Lester, Woody, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary

Carter (Ind.), our service men and women, and the leaders of our nation and other nations as a way for peace is sought.

HAPPY JUNE-BIRTHDAY to (9) Lester, (21) Donna Dyer, and (24) Eva Wheeler. And **Happy Anniversary** to (30) Nim and Mary and (1) Ron and Doris.

WORRIED OR CONCERNED?

We see the news everywhere—television, newspapers—the financial system in our country is having problems. People are talking about it, and many people are worried. When people are asked "on the street" about finances, they have fear in their eyes and their talk is about the uncertainty of the future. Panic seems to be the next step. While I have seen many people talk about the problems, I have yet to hear anyone say, in public, *"I trust God and believe that he will take care of me, no matter what the financial situation may be."*

Even though we have not yet heard someone speak those words, isn't it time we started saying them, at least to ourselves? Doesn't the Bible speak of walking by FAITH (2 Corinthians 5:7)? Faith means trusting in something or someone. It deals specifically with that which cannot be seen (Hebrews 11:1).

A person with faith may be *concerned* about finances. In fact, Jesus was prudent in financial matters. He apparently approved of group finances for the apostles (John 12:6) and he instructed the apostles to pay taxes (Matthew 17:24-27). In his parables, he used financial transactions to illustrate spiritual lessons (Matthew 13:44-46; 25:14-30; Luke 12:15-21). The attitude of Jesus, and the attitude that a Christian should have, is that money may be used to glorify God in our lives. However, it is not to be seen or used as an end in itself. A person may make the wisest and most honest decisions possible and then be at peace with himself no matter how the financial situation may unfold.

On the other hand, a child of God is not to be worried about money. Worry differs from concern in that it consumes the worrier. Various things that could go wrong are played and replayed in the mind, even though most of them will never occur. If not worried about the future, one can worry about the past, regretting things done or not done. Jesus addressed this destructive habit in Matthew 6:21-34. Notice that I mark the section on worry as beginning with verse 21, and not in verse 24. I believe that worry/concern about money, in the heart of a Christian, is determined by WHERE one's treasure is. If our treasure is upon this earth, we will be consumed by worry about finances. If, however, our treasure is in heaven, we will trust the Lord, who lives there, to take care of us. He will make sure that we are fed, sheltered and clothed. As the song says, "Be no dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you." --Lance Cordle, *The Encourager*, Calvert City, KY

WHATEVER HAPPENED to diversity? Left-wing speakers overwhelmingly dominate commencement exercises at American colleges each year. A study conducted by the Young America's Foundation, a Virginia-based non-profit organization, found that students across the country have been subjected to lectures by liberal/lefts members of the media and entertainment industries. In surveying the top 50 schools during a recent year, the report found only three colleges at which centrists or moderates gave the commencement address.

--Trib-Bits, *Decatur Tribune*, 1-23-08

COMING UP: Bill Williams, from Manchester, Tenn., is to be our speaker on Wednesday evening, June 17. He and his family plan to be here on their returning trip home from Marquette, Mich., where Bill will be preaching in a gospel meeting. He and Wendy are long-time friends from our days of ministry at Marquette. He has spoken here before.

THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE will be in Arthur June 11, from 3-7 p.m. at the Arthur Community Building.

- "He who sings his own praise is often a soloist."
- "Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors."

--*Something to Think About*, submitted by Bill Williams

Promises Promises Promises

Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." Peter said unto him, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee." Likewise also said all the disciples. --Matthew 26:34-35

Right before that dreadful night in the garden prior to Jesus' arrest, our Lord revealed that his close friends would deny him; then came the promise. This promise was full of enthusiasm and confidence. Promises are like that! We have goals and good intentions, but we often feel a conviction of devotion that leads us to say, "I promise to never do that."

Many know the story all too well. When the time came to hold up their end of the promise, the assurance resulted in a big plunge into the puddle of deception, deceit and fakeness. Peter did the unthinkable.

Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, "I know not the man," and immediately the cock crew. --Matthew 26:26

My gift reminds me never to make a promise you can't keep. It's bad enough to break a promise, but, along with it, comes a multitude of other troubling situations.

Many promise-breakers can perform their evil deed and not even blink an eye. They are like the people described in 1 Timothy 4:1-2: "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."

Peter asks forgiveness of his wrongs, and became a great spokesman for the cause of the Gospel. The fact remains that distress, pain, heartache and agony don't even fade the heartless promise-makers who have hurt so many. Their consciences have been scorched to the point of insensitivity. Sadly, they continue to sleep well.

Before you make a promise, ask yourself if you can keep it.

--Rick Woodall, *Logansport Lifelines*, IN

A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO HEAVEN

ACCOMMODATIONS: Arrangements for accommodations must be made in advance and in person (John 14:2).

PASSPORTS: Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and having their names registered with the ruling authority (Revelation 21:27).

DEPARTURE TIME: The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travelers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice (1 Corinthians 15:52).

TICKETS: Your ticket was purchased by a Friend named Jesus. It should be claimed and its promises kept firmly in hand (John 5:24; Hebrews 5:8-9).

LUGGAGE: No luggage whatsoever can be taken (1 Timothy 6:7).

IMMIGRATION: All passengers are classified as immigrants, since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. The quota is unlimited (Hebrews 11:16).

AIR PASSAGE: Travelers going directly by air are advised to watch daily for indications of imminent departure (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

VACCINATION INOCULATIONS: Injections are not needed, as there are no illnesses or diseases there (Revelation 21:4).

CURRENCY: Supplies of "treasures" may be forwarded to await passenger's arrival. Make deposits as large as possible (Matthew 6:20).

CLOTHING: A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveler (Isaiah 61:10).

RESERVATIONS: Booking is now open. Since departure time is unknown, you should apply at once. If you wait, it may be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).

To learn more, please consult real traveler's guide—the Bible.

--Edd Sterchi, Harrisburg, IL, *Bulletin Gold*

("For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead ;n Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
