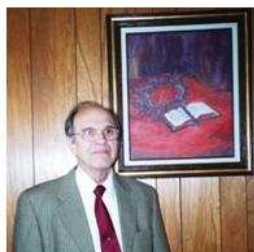




Arthur Church of Christ

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



Ron Bartanen, Minister

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).



Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship..10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study..1:30 p.m.

SERMONS



"*THE CHRISTIAN AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*" (Part 2) will be this morning's lesson. The evening message will be, "*The Followers of God*," based upon Ephesians 5:1-21.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Paul and Nadine plan to leave for their daughter's in Michigan Tuesday, where Paul will be undergoing either surgery or treatment for kidney stones. *** Linda's nephew is doing better, and has left the hospital, but still has health problems. *** Lester has moved to room 56 at the Arthur Nursing Home. *** Continue to remember Inez, Linda, Rodger, Lyla, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis and Mary Carter, our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought.

November 15, 2009

REMEMBER THE SCARS

John Gordon was a respected general for the South in the Civil War. After the war, he was running for the United States Senate, but a man who had served under him in the war, angry over some political incident, was determined to see him defeated. Everyone knew this man would fight Gordon's bid to become senator.

During the convention, he angrily stamped down the aisle with his anti-Gordon vote in hand. As he saw Gordon sitting on the platform, he noticed how his once handsome face was disfigured with the scars of battle—marks of his willingness to suffer and bleed for a cause he believed in.

The old soldier was stricken with remorse. Overcome with emotion, he exclaimed, It's no use. I can't do it. Here's my vote for John Gordon." Then, turning to the general, he said, "Forgive me, General. I had forgotten the scars."

What a difference it makes in our lives when we remember the scars! With so many things to distract us, we don't often take time each day to reflect on what Jesus went through on the cross for us. But when we are tempted to stray, it is a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice that has the power to draw us back to Him.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

May I encourage you this morning to take a moment to pause and "remember the scars."

--Lantern, Highway church bulletin, Sullivan, IL

QUOTES ON TYRANNY--

"*Those people who would not be governed by God will be ruled by Tyrants.*" (William Penn)

"*To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.*" (Thomas Jefferson)

GOING NOWHERE?

A number of years ago two bus shelters were installed in Mesa, AZ at a cost of \$32,000. Anyone using them in the hope of catching a city bus, however, had a long wait because the shelters were not placed on any of the city's existing bus routes (AP, 6-27-03). That same year in Rhode Island an independent road striping crew, working under a state contract painted a "prominent crosswalk on Cucumber Hill Road in Foster, RI, connecting a hedge on one side with a stone wall on the other" (AP, 6-7-03). Have you ever felt like your life was going nowhere? Countless people around the world, even around your block, people are seeking to discover meaning in their lives. How can we, as Christians, sit quietly by as they wander aimlessly without hope, going nowhere?

"No one," Jesus said, "having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Paul exemplified this aspect of discipleship (Phil. 3:14). In his letters, this apostle, who held the high honor of Roman citizenship, reminded Christians of their exalted honor of citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20). As Christians, we, more than any other people in this world, have so much for which to be thankful. Let us see the opportunities of this time of year to share with others the many blessings we enjoy in Christ, especially our hope in Christ that can bring ultimate meaning into the lives of those living without hope.

Occasionally Paul would glance into his past, to attainments no longer cherished (Phil. 3:7-8). He recalled his suffering (2 Cor. 11:23-28), not for personal glory but to regain the spiritually confused. Paul also remembered the role he played in Stephen's murder (Acts 22:20), using those painful memories in an effort to "connect with" an angry mob and potentially share the Gospel with them. Then, in his final letter, on the verge of certain death, he took a final glance over an incredible life of Christian service (2 Tim. 4:6-8). His eyes couldn't linger long for they were fixed on heaven. His work done, the apostle to the Gentiles was finally going home.

--Dave Bragg, *Bulletin Gold*

LIVING TEMPLES

"Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them: and I will be their God and they shall be my people'" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

When Jesus walked this earth and saw His temple being defiled, He cleaned it out. There was no room for God's Spirit, and the idols of this world in the same place. Jesus declared that we are now temples of the

living God. His Holy Spirit is meant to dwell in us. Like the physical temple, there is no room for God and the idols of the world in our temple. When we are aware of that relationship with God's Spirit, and we wish for Him to dwell with us, we must have a house cleaning each day. He wants to be our God and dwell among us. When we have that mutual goal, we really are the living temples of God.

--Submitted by Paul Kent, Georgetown, IL

SUICIDE—OKAY; CHEMOTHERAPY—NO

Oregon will pay for suicide, but not chemotherapy. A man who has prostate cancer and does not have insurance applied to the state of Oregon Health Plan, to get financial help with the procedure. He received a letter saying the state would not help him with medication that would extend his life, but that the state would cover the cost of assisted suicide. The euthanasia issue is rapidly becoming a forced option by the state, and with a low premium on human life we can expect more emphasis on doctors ending lives than extending them.

--Does God Exist; Mar./Apr. '09 Source: LifeNews.com/bio2528.html

"FULFILLED DREAMS"

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, "If I could only see the world, I will marry you." One day someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend.

He asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?" The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that she was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him.

The boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: "Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine."

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes.

Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situation.--Source unknown

"If people cannot write well, they cannot think well, and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them."

--George Orwell