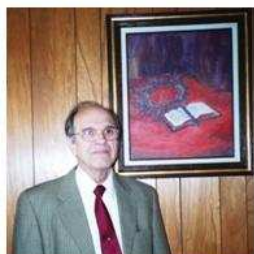




Arthur Church of Christ

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.

November 22, 2009

“BE YE THANKFUL” *“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...and be ye thankful” (Colossians 3:15).*

At this Thanksgiving season we should seek to renew a spirit of thankfulness within our hearts. While times are difficult for many, due to such things as unemployment, sickness, loss of loved ones, etc., our troubles are compounded when there is a lack of gratitude for the blessings received daily. The famous Bible scholar, Matthew Henry, having been accosted by thieves, and robbed, wrote in his journal: “Let me be thankful, first because I was never robbed before; second, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.”

The apostle Paul described a society heading for destruction, saying, “When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful” (Romans 1:21). A nation that would forget God is a nation at peril. We are warned, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalms 9:17). God’s judgments will be executed upon both individuals and nations that turn away from Him in thanklessness.

We hope that for you Thanksgiving Day is truly that, not just “turkey day.” **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

IT HAPPENED IN ENGLAND! AMERICA NEXT?

The following is from the Nov. 23 issue of *National Review*:

“In the English city of Norwich, 67-year-old grandmother Pauline Howe joined a peaceful protest by Christians against the city’s gay-pride parade. Some of the paraders took time out to insult Mrs. Howe in person, with remarks of an offensively salacious nature. The lady wrote a letter of complaint to the city council. For her trouble, she was visited by two uniformed police officers, who interrogated her in her home to determine whether she had perpetrated a “hate incident.” After scrutinizing Mrs. Howe’s responses, the officers of the law graciously allowed that her hate did not rise to the level where she might be a danger to society, so there will be no prosecution.

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



“A **PSALM OF THANKSGIVING**” will be this morning’s message, with Psa. 116 as the text. **THE NURSING HOME SERVICE** will be this Tuesday, the 24th, at 6:00 p.m.



IN OUR PRAYERS -- Paul & Nadine’s address is now c/o Gene Cecchini, 48030 Manorwood Dr., Northville, MI 48167.

Paul continues to undergo tests, and is doing well. *** Continue to remember Lester, Inez, Linda, Rodger, Lyla, Mary’s mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis and Mary Carter (Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as a way for peace is sought.

Sighed Mrs. Howe: 'Our freedoms as Bible-believing Christians have been squashed.' Indeed. To avoid the attention of the authorities in today's Britain, it is wiser to be a Koran-believing Muslim."

It is amazing that in today's society (not just in England), to not be "politically correct" in matters pertaining to sexual conduct, especially homosexuality, is to subject oneself to charges of being guilty of a "hate-crime." Hate is thus defined as an intolerance of a practice that God's word defines as an "abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). A hate-crimes law has passed through Congress and has been signed by the president. In a OneNewsNow.com article of Nov. 10, reference is made to the fact that 11 Christians were jailed in 2004 under Pennsylvania's hate-crimes law for "carrying Bible verse banners and preaching at a 2004 homosexual pride event." The charge was dismissed last year by the state's Supreme Court ruling that "the law had been passed illegally by the Pennsylvania legislature." Michael Marcavage, one of those jailed, says that the new federal hate crimes law is yet another move by the federal government to "silence Christians." He also said, "What this bill does is [seek] to shut down those who dare to speak against the sin of homosexuality with the hope and freedom that is found in Jesus Christ." He expressed regret that the government is attempting to silence those who are trying to lead those in the grips of this sin into the freedom that is in Christ. He expressed three reasons why he opposes the new law. The article states, "He says it is ungodly because it 'seeks to shut down the gospel of Jesus Christ'; unconstitutional because it violates the equal protection guarantee of the 14th Amendment; and also unnecessary because there are already laws on the books that punish violent crimes."

What we are seeing is plainly an attack designed to intimidate any who would speak out against the sin of homo-sexual practices, including preachers, editors, talk-show hosts, etc. And if these cannot be intimidated they can be expected to suffer the punishment of fines and imprisonment for their "crimes." Free speech and freedom of religion must be set aside to placate those who cannot tolerate exposure to the word of God and biblical truth. We must feel compassion for those caught up in this or any other sin, but at the same time we cannot be silent where God has spoken so clearly.

-Ron

FIRST PROCLAMATION AFTER PLYMOUTH

Governor Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

"Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from

the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

"Now I, your magistrate do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at the meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings. --William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony

THANKSGIVING—A SPIRIT OF PRAISE

Can we learn to give thanks in every thing and for everything? Thankfulness is an attitude that we can and must develop.

Why are so many not thankful? Perhaps because they think of what they want and do not know how to evaluate or continue to be thankful for what they have received and currently have. They compare themselves with others and feel slighted. It might be good to be thankful that we do not have some things we do not want! We should count our own blessings, not those of others.

One thing we can learn and apply right now: give others something to be thankful for. Giving of itself is good, but above all give yourself.

Here are some ways to develop a positive and grateful Christian attitude. (1) Look for the good in everyone and every thing. (2) By an act of will ban improper things from your mind and fill it with positive things. (3) Never surrender to negative emotions. (4) Practice the principle of acting as if you already have the character you want to have. (5) Maintain an attitude of good will toward others. (6) Acknowledge the good in others. (7) Be an ambassador of good will to everybody. (8) Express appreciation and praise for what others do. (9) Allow others to give to you. (10) Practice positive prayer.

If you think you have nothing to be grateful for, compare the things you have with others who are deprived of them.

If you have been saved by obeying Christ, you have something not one person in 6,000 can be sure of. If you have not been saved by Christ, nothing else you have or can get will compensate for the deficiency.

--Gerald Cowan, Dongola, IL; via *Bulletin Gold* (slightly edited)