



# Arthur Church of Christ

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

## The "Sower"

## November 29, 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](http://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).

## Lessons From God's Word

"**PARABLES OF OPPORTUNITY**" will be this morning's message. Scriptures used will include Eph. 5:15-16; and Matthew 25.

**THIS EVENING**, being the last Sunday of the month, we will have our monthly **SONG SERVICE**. Your suggestions would be welcomed.

## For Your Information

"**A FRIEND** is someone who is coming in when everyone else is going out."

**PRAYER LIST:** Paul (now in Michigan); 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.

## A CONSTITUTION FOR THE FEDERATION OF EARTH

As we see the U.S. Constitution reinterpreted by judges and ignored by many elected to public office, we read more and more of intentions to subject our nation's citizens to international law. The following is a quote from the book, *Enroute to Global Occupation* by Gary H. Kah, Huntington House Pub., 1992: "The Constitution for the Federation of Earth...was first adopted during a meeting of the World Constituent Assembly in June 1977 at Innsbruck, Austria. The document was signed by 135 participants from twenty-five countries and is intended to replace the U.N. charter to become the centerpiece of the New World Order." Among the articles contained in this proposed global Constitution is this interesting one (Article IX): "The World Judiciary branch of the world government would interpret the rights of world citizens (including Christians) and would issue rulings regarding the sentencing of those who refuse to concede to the demands of the world system' (possibly due to religious convictions)." We can expect from such a Babylonish system increased government control over every facet of our lives. International government would be a government that would impose its ungodly standards in our schools, families and—yes—in churches. The battle Christians are engaged in—a battle for righteousness—cannot be confined to two or three hours on Sundays. (Ephesians 6:12 f.f.).

—Ron

# PREACH IT, BROTHER

*“Preach the Word: be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” – 2 Timothy 4:2.*

How many times have we heard it recited and declared in the sermons we have heard over the years? Its understandable message cannot be dissected into something it is not. What declaration is it that God wants His spokesman to sermonize? It is the significance of the Holy Word.

*“And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which is able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” – 2 Timothy 3:15.*

Even with the Lord’s commandment to preach the word, and in the face of the command to proclaim the good news as recorded in Mark 16:15, people are not frequently thrilled with such a design. Some listeners do not want to attend to the pure Word of God. Others that preach do not really yearn for preaching directly from the Bible anymore. Nevertheless, God still says: “Preach the Word.” People prefer to hear a more modern message, but God still says: “Speak the Word.” Man thinks that just any sanctimonious statement is good enough to salvage souls, but God still states: “Preach the Word;” Man sobs for sermons that are more witty and full of showmanship, but God says: “Speak the Word.” People look down on the scriptural sermons that rebuke their sins, but God still says: “Preach it anyway.” People want to hear tall stories and humorous tales. But God still says: *“The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” – Heb. 4:12.*

A lot of folks think that a church stage show would be more touching, but God still says: “Preach the Word anyway.” Some others say that the Bible’s message is dehydrated and humdrum, but God still says: “Preach it.” People just love to listen to tales about personal alleged experiences, but God still says: “Preach the Gospel.” Some think if we would give a sermon that has more attractiveness to the crowds, we would get bigger, while others think, “If we don’t dilute the sermon, we will never be a magnet for people from the community,” but God says, in spite of all these ideas: “Preach the Word.”

God’s direction is always true. Since that is what the Lord desires, we must do it! Preaching the Word is what our community needs. Preaching the Word is also what this congregation needs continually to be solid spiritually and prepared to meet the strategy of Satan head on. Yes, people say a lot, but God nevertheless says: “Preach the Holy Word that can save your soul.” --Rick Woodall, Logansport, Ind.

**(NOTE:** Lest any get the idea that I’ve included this article because someone in the congregation might have suggested in any way that we should preach anything less than “the Word,” that’s not the case. We appreciate the fact that folks at the Arthur church love the Word, and desire that it be preached faithfully. Scratching “itching ears” is unbecoming to any Gospel preacher. [2 Timothy 4:3])

## I GIVE THEE HUMBLE THANKS

For all the gifts that Thou dost send,  
For every kind and loyal friend,  
For prompt supply of all my need,  
For all that’s good in word or deed,  
For gift of health along life’s way,  
For strength to work from day to day,  
I give Thee humble thanks.

For ready hands to help and cheer,  
For listening ears Thy voice to hear,  
For yielded tongue Thy love to talk,  
For willing feet Thy paths to walk,  
For open eyes Thy Word to read,  
For loving heart Thy will to heed,  
I give Thee humble thanks.

For Christ who came from Heaven above,  
For the Cross and His redeeming love,  
For His mighty power to seek and save,  
For His glorious triumph o’er the grave,  
For lovely mansions in the sky,  
For His blessed coming by-and-by,  
I give thee humble thanks.  
--Clifford Lewis, *Sourcebook for Speakers*

**SCRIPTURE:** “It is very difficult for an individual who knows the Scripture ever to get away from it. It haunts him like an old song. It follows him like the memory of his mother. It remains with him like the word of a revered teacher. It forms a part of the warp and woof of his life.”

--Woodrow Wilson

# ASSURED!

*“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!”*

The wonderful words of this song have been on the lips of nearly all of us many times. However, I wonder if what the song says is truly an expression of our hearts. Are we truly “rejoicing always” because we are **assured** of eternal life? More often it is “I hope I’m going to heaven” instead of “I am assured” of going.

Looking at the New Testament, it is clear that God wants us to have the confident, assured attitude. He does not want us to live in constant fear and insecurity. We ought to experience daily the joys of salvation.

Paul said that hard times didn’t bother him because *“I know whom I have believed and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day”* (2 Timothy 1:12). Does Paul sound like one who is continually questioning his salvation? Of course not. He has a secure feeling about his relationship with God. Yet this is the man who persecuted the church, killed Christians, called himself the chief of sinners, a blasphemer, persecutor and violent aggressor (Acts 8:1, 2; 1 Timothy 1:13-15).

If Paul had done so many ungodly things, and could still say confidently, “I’m saved,” then shouldn’t we be able to do the same?

God doesn’t expect perfection from any of us. He knows we can’t be perfect. But He does expect (and rightly so) that we try to obey Him. One who continually does wrong is not trying. But the one who desires to do right, and is always trying to do right (that is, trying to obey God’s Word), that one has a loving, merciful God caring for Him (Exodus 34:6, 7).

John said: *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may **KNOW** that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5:13). Christians should not be questioning their own salvation. If they have done what the Bible says, then they can have that “Blessed Assurance.” John says you can “know” that you have it. It was meant to be that way.  
-Denny Petrillo, *E-Encourager*, Calvert City, KY