



Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

October 4, 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 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).

THE SHULTS-LEWIS CHILDREN'S HOME VAN, Oct. 18. Pantry items needed, plus printer & copier cartridges, "Education Box Tops", and checks for perishables.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Paul, Lester, Woody, Rodger, Inez, Linda, Lyla, Inez's sister (Guinn), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Ind.), our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought.

"LIGHTS IN THE WORLD"

The apostle Paul admonished the believers at Philippi, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." (Phil. 2:15)

The world hasn't changed much, has it? Darkness still seeks the upper hand. In fact, the world has never been without times that would challenge the church. As a body of believers in Christ, we are to be, as Paul says, "lights in the world." Compromise with the world is never acceptable. The days problems must be answered by a people whose faith in Christ and the power of the gospel is unwavering. Whether the world is aware of it or not, it needs a laboratory in living. This is what the church is all about.

What a contrast Paul sets forth. As he looks about, he sees "a crooked and perverse nation," but takes heart in that body of people he describes as "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke."

This kind of life, however, is not of ourselves, as he said earlier, in verse 13, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." We are but reflectors of the greater light of Jesus Christ, who declared, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).
-Ron

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

- Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, and only 14 to smile.
- Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.
- Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
- Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were a real pleasure.
- Be genuinely interested in people. You can like everyone if you try.
- Be generous in your praise, but cautious in your criticism.
- Be considerate of the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
- Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. There are three sides to a controversy: yours, the other fellow's and the right one.
- Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them...." (Matthew 7:12).

PEOPLE OF FAITH

"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Hebrews 11:16).

The Old Testament people of faith, like Abraham, died without receiving all the promises of God. They never owned land, and they realized they were strangers and aliens in the world. If they had been seeking an earthly home, they had the opportunity to go and claim it, but they were not looking for roots on the earth. By faith, they knew God was preparing an eternal heavenly home for them. May we capture the faith of Abraham. We live in a temporary alien world, and if we aren't careful, it can become our whole goal in life. May we look beyond any blessings on this earth and yearn for the heavenly city God has prepared for us. This world is not our home, we are just passing through. --
graceforyourspirit.blogspot.com; submitted by Paul Kent.

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

(By David Ferguson, Mattoon, IL)

Found within the Bible are numerous passages that teach how the world is God's, and it belongs to Him. The psalmist declared in Psalm 24:1-2 [RSV], "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein; for He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers."

The Earth is the Lord's because He created it. Speaking of Jesus Christ, the writer of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 1:1-3 [RSV], "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, Whom He appointed the heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of His nature, upholding the universe by His word of power."

Not only is He the Creator of the world and all of the wonders of the cosmos, Jesus Christ is also the Sustainer of the universe. The Apostle Paul says in Colossians 1:17, "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Without Jesus Christ being alive and well, the universe would cease to exist.

Since we have seen how the Earth is the Lord's because He created it and He continues to sustain it, it behooves all Christians everywhere to do what we can to respect and honor God's world so that we will have it and the resources it offers and produces for future generations to come. This is only being a good steward.

Christian environmental stewardship - as image-bearers of God - is a central, joyful, satisfying aspect of our task here on God's Earth. As communities of God's stewards, our churches and our lives can be vibrant testimonies that glorify our Redeemer and Creator, as the Body of the One Who made, sustains, and reconciles the world. "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being" writes John in Revelation 4:11.

Yes, we should honor God by being a good steward of His creation. But we should never do as we see some doing, which is replacing God the Creator with idols, and elevating the Earth to the status of a goddess to be worshipped. As Paul warned, they have "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles" (Romans 1:23). Let us respect the Earth, but never worship it. Let us always give our lives in worship to the one and only true and living God Who created everything!

DID YOU KNOW? -- Red China, the world's largest user of slave labor, has an estimated 20 million prisoners in thousands of camps located near factories producing many, if not most, of the products exported to America.

LOOK AROUND: Every country that has gone the socialist route has gone downhill. Every country that has adopted free enterprise has prospered.

"GOVERNMENT is not reason: it's not eloquence; it is force,. Like fire, it's a dangerous servant and a fearful master." (George Washington)

--Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune