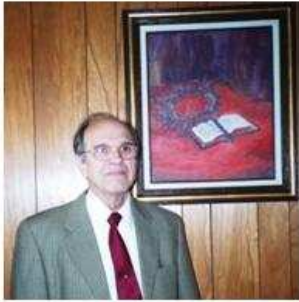




# The "Sower"

September 20, 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



### Prayer Requests

**Continue in prayer** for: Paul; Lester; Woody; Rodger; Inez; Linda; Lyla; Inez's sister (Guinn), our daughter-in-law (Crystal), Charles Moore (Tex.); Lewis and Mary Carter (Ind.); our service men and women; and our

nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought.

**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



**SPEAKING TODAY**, at this morning's service, is Larry Miles. Larry is our Internet manager, and we appreciate him and his work on our website. His message will be from 2 Tim.

4:1-8: **"The Faithful Christian and His Faithful Lord."**

My evening message will again be on **Worship**, as we consider **"The Grace of Giving,"** the texts being 2 Cor. 8:7 and Acts 2:42.

## THIS DAY

This is the beginning of a new day. God has given this day to me to use as I will. I can waste it, or use it. I can make it a day to be remembered for its joy, its beauty and its achievement, or it can be filled with pettiness. What I do this day is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, but I shall hold something which I have traded for it. It may be no more than a memory, but it is a worthy one. I shall not regret the price. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure.

Here is a day, and here am I. God will not expect more of me than I am capable of giving, but I must live up to my best. There will be beauty, and I must not miss it. There will be cries of people in distress, and I must hear and answer. There must be moments of temptation, but I must not yield. There will be times of tension, but I must not speak impulsively. There will be opportunities, and I must be ready.

When the end of the day comes, I want to look back without regret, and forward with a radiant spirit and a thankful heart. --Submitted by Juanita Fleenor, Hammond

## TO BE A DISCIPLE

***“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Luke 16:24)***

Are you a disciple of Jesus? What does it take to be a disciple? Simply defined, a disciple is basically a learner. He or she is one who responds to Jesus' invitation to “come, learn of me” (Matthew 11:29). But a disciple is more than a pupil. The one who would lay claim to the title must be an adherent to the word of Christ, an imitator of the Master. A disciple is one who continues in His word. Jesus said to believers, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.” It was summarized by Jesus in Luke 16:24. What is it to be a disciple of Jesus?

- **GIVE UP.** *“Let him deny himself.”* Personal desires must give place to the will of Christ. Those who denied Christ and put Him on the cross were represented as saying, “We will not have this man reign over us” (Matthew 19:14). When self is on the throne, we put Christ on the cross. The true disciple not only knows the will of Christ, but will also be obedient to His word. Jesus made this clear: “Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)
- **TAKE UP.** *“Let him...take up his cross.”* The cross was more than an annoyance: it was an instrument of death. He is speaking of death to ourselves, with all our false gods and corrupt inclinations. It is, as Paul declared, presenting our “bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is (our) reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). Discipleship involves more than putting away a few troublesome habits. It is also a matter of putting on other qualities. It is the putting on of the “new man” after having put off the “old man” (Ephesians 4:24, 22), which has been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6).
- **KEEP UP.** *“Let him...follow me.”* This journey of faith is a challenging journey. It will prove to be a test of our commitment to Christ, not only as Savior, but also as Lord. Disciples' eyes in this journey must be on Christ, undistracted by the world and false shepherds. He must have our allegiance above all others. As we sometimes sing, “Where He leads me, I will follow.” We will never pass Him up, but He does challenge us to keep up with Him. While this is not an expectation of perfection, it is a call to perseverance in the faith, as He both admonishes and assures us, “Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10b).

The cost is self. There can be no substitute. Religiosity will not do. Ritualism will not do. If we want the life that only Christ can give, self is not too great of a sacrifice. The life He offers is worth that and much more. There is no way that will bring us to the Father than He who said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6). **Are you one of His disciples?** --Ron

---

**EVERYBODY** should be able to find some good in life, ever how bad things get. As one elderly gentleman said, “I've sure gotten old. I've had 2 by-pass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees,. I've fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind and can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine. I take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts. I have bouts with dementia, have poor circulation and can hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. And I've lost all my friends. But...Thank God I still have my Florida driver's license!

## MUSLIMS—OUR FRIENDS?

The following are excerpts from Nonie Narwish's book, *Cruel and Usual Punishment*, pp. 133, 134. Narwish was converted from Islam. "Regarding friendship with non-Muslims, the Qur'an says in 5:51, 'O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors. They are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them for friendship is of them.'" Again, "Qur'an 3:118 says, 'O you who believe! Take not as your intimates those (unbelievers) outside your religion. They will not fail to do their best to corrupt you.'" While Muslims are planning a prayer session at our nation's capital, stressing conciliation with others, the words of Mohammed belie their facade of friendship. We have but to look at the attitude toward Christians and Jews in Muslim-controlled countries to see reality. As Narwish observed on pages 132-133: "With radical Islam now on the rise, it is no longer safe for Jews and Christian to live in Arab and Muslim countries. They are not allowed to practice their religion peacefully in many Muslim countries, and in Saudi Arabia they cannot practice any religion other than Islam under their Sharia laws. In one-third of the world—the Muslim world—Christians and Jews are not welcome." —Ron

**Knocking:** A nurse in the pediatric ward, before listening to the little ones' chests, would plug the stethoscope into their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe, but she never got a response equal to four-year-old David's comment.

"Listen," she said.... What do you suppose that is?

He drew his eyebrows together in a puzzled line and looked up as if lost in the mystery of the strange "tap, tap, tap" in his chest.

Then his face broke out in a wondrous grin, and he asked, "Is that Jesus' knocking?"

--Submitted by Charles Moore

***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).***

---