



Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

September 6, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am

Morning Worship-10:30 am

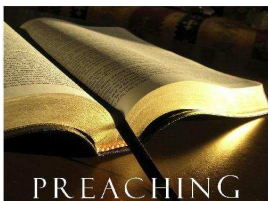
Evening Worship—6:00 pm

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).



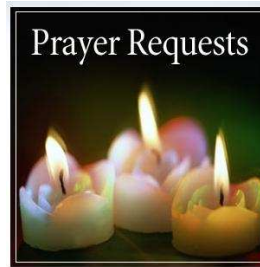
PREACHING

"LABORERS TOGETHER" will be this morning's message, 1 Corinthians 3:9 being the text. The evening lesson, in our series on worship, will be, **"Characteristics of Christian Worship,"** and 1

Corinthians 14:26 will be the text.

A SONG SERVICE will be at the Highway church in Sullivan today from 2:30 till 4:00. All are invited.

THE NURSING HOME SERVICE will be Tuesday, the 8th. Note the time change: 6:00 p.m.



Prayer Requests

CONTINUE IN PRAYER

FOR: Lester; Woody; Paul; Rodger; Inez; Linda; Lyla; Inez's sister (Guinn); our daughter-in-law (Crystal); Sammie's son-in-law; Charles Moore (Tex.); and Lewis & Mary Carter

(Ind.) Also remember our service men and women, and world leaders as a way for peace is sought.

WORK OR FUN?

Which do you prefer work or fun? "What a foolish question!" someone might say. Of course, who wouldn't choose having fun over having to work? But maybe we're missing something. Who is really enjoying life the most the person who has no obligations, is not depended upon for anything and spends his/her time in seeking pleasurable activities, or the one who has meaningful tasks to perform that will bring both personal benefits and benefits to others? While we sometimes feel inclined to the first choice, in the long term I am persuaded that true satisfaction and happiness in life come through our having meaning and purpose in our lives. In other words, work. Oh, I know that sometimes work becomes wearisome, and we need to take a break or even a vacation, but while we like to think that we'd be a lot happier if we were free from work, in actuality we would find life far less satisfying. I know there are exceptions, but I also believe that most people prefer a reasonable amount of work over a leisurely lifestyle. We probably grew up hearing others complain about their jobs, and naturally came to the conclusion that work is just something we **have** to do in order to earn enough money to enable us to do what we

enjoy doing. Our perception became that the drudgery of labor is the price to be paid for the things we really enjoy. In reality, the unhappiest people are those who are lying around, waiting for some diversion to come along that will bring with it happiness.

Maybe if we learned to see the significance of our work, it would be enjoyable and satisfying. When Adam and Eve were created, even before the entrance of sin into the world, they were instructed to keep or tend to the Edenic garden in which God had placed them. (Gen. 2:15) It's true that following man's fall their work became more laborious, but not without reward. God has ordained that we partake of the fruits of our labors. Work is honorable in the eyes of God. That is true whether the work is that of a CEO in a large corporation or washing dishes and scrubbing floors. While we tend to put more importance upon some jobs than we do upon others, we should ask ourselves what the world would be like if nobody performed even the humblest of tasks.

It is for the benefit of all, including the laborer, that God's word has emphasized the importance of one's work. The apostle Paul demanded, "If any would not work, neither should he eat"(2 Thessalonians 3:10). He had written earlier, "Work with your own hands, as we commanded you: that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without (i.e. non-believers) and that ye may have lack of nothing"(1 Thess. 4:11, 12). Solomon had wisely said, "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold: therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing"(Proverbs 20:4).

I believe God has put within our nature the impulse to work. It is not at all unusual for "retired" persons to soon seek out at least part time employment, or do volunteer work in the community. We are made in the image of God, and in some sense God works. Jesus said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work"(John 5:17). We can even expect that in eternity we will not be idle, flying around playing harps, but will be productive servants. After the Lord returns, we are told there will be "no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him"(Revelation 22:3).

Our attitude toward life's labors should be that "whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye

serve the Lord Christ"(Colossians 3:23-24). Thank God for workers, and thank God for the ability and strength to work while you have it. Let your life be a testimony to the virtue found in Christians' labor "to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 1:31).

Ron

YOU ARE A TARGET!

You may not know it, but you are a target! Even if you are a Christian, you are a target! He has you in his sights. His hate for you is filled with evil intentions, far beyond your wildest imagination. He is bent on your destruction. Everything you stand for, he stands against.

- You tell the truth and he tells a lie.
- You try to save and he destroys.
- You try to help and he creates confusion.
- You try to love and he fosters hate.
- You try to forgive and he brings resentment.
- You try to overcome weaknesses and he helps you indulge in them.

He is absolutely bent on your destruction. He is filled with hatred for all you are and all you have, including your family, the church, and your very life. You must understand this fact: He is your enemy. He is real. His name is Lucifer, Satan, Beelzebub, the Devil.

But here is the GOOD NEWS: Nothing happens to a Christian that God doesn't allow to happen. You are God's child. He is your Father. Therefore, no matter what happens to you in life, God can use it for good. Think about Joseph. God can use these things to help us grow. He can teach us to trust Him. What are your circumstances right now? Do you have a trusting faith? "Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you"(James 4:7) *The Edifier*, Temple, Tex.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"

(Romans 8:28).

"The greatest glory of a freeborn people is to transmit that freedom to their children" (William Howard)

"To belittle is to be little."

"A half truth is a whole lie." --Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune

WHY? O TELL ME WHY

Why would a man choose blindness *over sight?*

Why would a man choose darkness over light?

Why would a man choose hatred over love?

Why would a man choose a thief like Satan

Over God's gift from above?

Why would a man choose the broad path that leads to destruction

Over God's great guidance and patient instruction?

Why would a man choose his own opinion and speculation

Over God's word made known through the Spirit of truth's revelation?

Why would a man choose filth, separation and alienation

Over God's cleansing power and glorious sanctification?

Why would a man choose hunger and starvation

Over the bread of life provided freely to all within His holy nation?

Why would a man choose unquenched thirst

Over drinking from the fountain of life to be not cursed?

Why would a man choose death over life?

Why would a man not choose peace and unity

Over religious division, confusion and strife?

--Tim Childs, *Bulletin Gold*