
The Sower

Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th Street
Arthur, IL 61911

Times of Worship

Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.



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.

Have you visited our website lately?
(www.arthurchurchofchrist.com)

Be sure to check out the "Christian Evidences"/"Apologetics Press" links Now in both English and Spanish.

April 13, 2008

SUNDAY SCHOOL HUMOR—

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence: "I think I'd throw up!"

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

BURYING SEEDS

It's that time of year again—the time for "gardening fever." I've already deposited a few seeds in the ground. I do so in expectation of the seeds producing plants, and the plants producing their fruit.

The Bible speaks of sowing and reaping as illustrating the fact that our actions have consequences—both good and bad. "As a man soweth, so shall he also reap" (Gal. 5:7). In pondering this, I think of Joseph's brothers who had sold him as a slave, only 20 years later having to face him as their judge (Gen. 42). The seed of hatred for their brother had been planted 20 years earlier, and finally they come to the realization, "We are verily guilty concerning our brother" (Gen. 42:21).

Burying our sins is like burying seed. The evil fruit will come of it, though we know not when. We will all face Christ in judgment. (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). Will you be ready? -Ron

“Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing” (Psalms 107:21-22).

- **WELCOME** to today’s Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a VISTOR, we want to extend to you a special welcome. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.
- **“JOHN AND THE HOLY SPIRIT”** will be the topic of this morning’s message as we continue in our “*John—the Theologian*” series. The reading will be Jhn 14:15-19, 25-26. The evening lesson will be, **“The Walk of the Old man,”** and our reading and text will be Eph. 4:17-19, as we continue our series in Ephesians.
- **NEXT SUNDAY morning’s** lesson, as we conclude our series on *John—the Theologian*, will be **John and the Father**, with Jhn 14:19-25 as the reading. The evening message will be **“The Walk of the New Man,”** and Eph. 4:20-32 will be the basis for our thoughts. Are you reading the passages ahead of time?
- **BIBLE CLASSES:** Wednesday’s sheet is available.
- **IN OUR PRAYERS:** Lyla had some tests this past week, and is awaiting the results. *** We want to continue to remember Dean, Inez, Paul, Lester, Woody, Rodger, Linda’s brother (cancer) and cousin, Charles Moore (Tex.), and Lewis Carter (Ind./Fla.). Also remember our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as they seek a way for peace. Pray also that in our presidential election process the right person will be selected to lead our nation in a way that best conforms with the will of God.

THE ART OF SAYING “I’M SORRY”

Apologizing doesn’t come easy for some of us. We sometimes choke on the words, “I’m sorry.” Well, in fact, sometimes we speak the words, but we do so with such animosity, the message is lost.

I can illustrate. Being a parent of four children, I have had to “moderate” a good number of apologies. On many occasions I have told one of my children, “Now you tell your brother/sister you’re sorry.” What then comes out of their mouths sounds more like a child who is demon possessed than a sincere apology. Teeth

clenched, jaw set, and the words, “I’m sorry” are spoken in a forceful and almost growling tone. (If you have children, you know exactly what I’m talking about.)

But now, that’s just kid’s stuff—right? Adults don’t behave like that, now do we? Well, maybe we’re not so obvious, but we still have ways of speaking those words with less than sincerity. For example, how many times have you heard people say things like...

--“If I have done anything to offend you, I’m sorry.”

--“I’m sorry, but if you wouldn’t have...”

--“If you’ll apologize to me, I’ll apologize to you.”

Isn’t it time we quit pretending to be sorry? Let us discipline ourselves to be humble enough to graciously and freely say we are sorry when we have offended others. When confronted with his sin, King David didn’t make any excuses, but simply admitted his wrong by saying, “I have sinned against the Lord” (2 Samuel 12:13).

Next time you need to say you’re sorry, humble yourself and do so, and say it like you mean it.

--Steve Higginbotham, Glasgow, Kentucky, *MercEmail*

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