

# The Sower

## Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.arthurchurchofchrist.com))

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

April 6, 2008

**GRETA WAS AN ELDERLY** grandmotherly type. She was well known for her faith and talking about it. Every morning she would go out on the porch and shout, "Praise the Lord!" Her next door neighbor would shout back, "There ain't no Lord!" Greta was very poor, so the neighbor decided to prove his point by buying a large bag of groceries and placing it at her door. The next morning she went to the porch, and seeing the groceries, she shouted, "Praise the Lord!"

The neighbor stepped out from behind a tree in the yard and said, "I brought those groceries, and there ain't no Lord."

Greta smiled, and shouted, "**Lord, you not only sent me food, but you made the devil pay for it!**"

--Lakeland (Mattoon) bulletin

### **It Was Once Said**

"The people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities.... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces." --James A Garfield, Highway church bulletin

***"He layeth up wisdom for the righteous" (Proverbs 2:7a).***

### **WHERE WISDOM MAY BE FOUND**

A gentleman was attending a men's conference. The speaker announced that he was going to offer a

challenge to the men to begin a practice that would change their lives dramatically. While they were all ready to copy down some complex formula, they were amazed and somewhat disappointed when he said, "There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs. I challenge you to read a chapter a day each month for the next year. If you do, you will have read the book of Proverbs 12 times, and your life will never be the same."

One participant accepted the challenge and reported his amazement at how many times he found himself in a situation during the day for which he had insight taken directly from that day's reading in Proverbs. His conclusion was that Proverbs offered the simplest, yet most profound, daily spiritual "pick-me-ups" to be found in the Bible.

The book of Proverbs is a powerful book. The reason is that the book provides the one thing we all need in large doses: WISDOM. Wisdom's roots run deep into Old Testament soil. Interestingly, the word did not at first signify "wisdom," but rather, "skill." We tend to equate "wisdom" with "intelligence." but one can have great intelligence without great wisdom, and vice-versa. If the root idea of wisdom is skill, then we can say that Proverbs will teach us the skill of living. Just as there is skill in sewing, designing, speaking, navigating, and carving, so there is skill needed for living life effectively and successfully. And that is the kind of wisdom the book of Proverbs offers its readers.

Think of all the encounters you have in a week, and how many of them require skillful navigation. Not a day goes by in which we don't feel hesitant, even confused about how to act. Pure and simple, we need wisdom, the skill of living life. And there are numerous verses in Proverbs which address every category of crisis that we will ever face. Fortunately, wisdom from God is just a prayer away. The book in the New Testament most like Proverbs is the book of James. The hands-on nature of James mirrors its Old Testament cousin. And, James is the one who tells us, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

The author of Proverbs (at least most of them), King Solomon, gained the wisdom to write the proverbs the same way James advises us to get it: by asking God. When Solomon succeeded his father, David, as king over Israel, God presented Solomon

with a blank check: "Ask! What shall I give you?" (1 Kings 3). Understandably, the young Solomon was quite nervous at the prospect of being king. So, instead of asking for riches, or military might, or long life, he asked God for wisdom, and God was true to His word. "I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you, nor shall any like you arise after you" (1 Kings 3:13).

For specific wisdom in unique situations, we may not have the wisdom required because we have not asked for it (cf. James 4:2). But in many more of life's situations, we may lack wisdom because we haven't poured over the proverbs of Solomon. So, we should take up the challenge: Read a chapter in the book of Proverbs each day for a month. Repeat that process every month for an entire year. You, too, may be amazed at how something so simple can energize your spiritual life and give you the needed skill for living. --Robert N. Lambert, *Main Street Harbinger*, Milan, Tenn.

## ATTITUDE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

- When you have an unpleasant task to perform,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When you have a relationship to mend,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When failure has spoiled your day,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When you come to the end of your rope,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When you find yourself among negative people,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When others have control over your career,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When all external supports are gone,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When confronted with challenging circumstances,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When tempers rise and things are tense,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When our feelings and emotions are crushed,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When life has handed you a hand that's unfair,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When people insist on having their way,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.
- When life calls you to her stage to perform,  
ATTITUDE makes the difference.

--J.J. Turner

***“Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalms 29:1-2).***

**WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. We want to especially give a welcome to any that may be VISITORS. We appreciate your joining with us in honoring our Lord, and hope for your soon return.

***“JOHN AND THE SON OF MAN”*** will be this morning's message, another in our series on ***“John—the Theologian.”*** Today's reading will be John 8:20-30. The topic of the evening lesson will be, ***“Ministries,”*** as we continue in Ephesians. The reading will be Eph. 4:1-16. It is always an advantage to read the references ahead of time.

**NEXT SUNDAY morning** the message will be ***“John and the Holy Spirit,”*** with John 14:15-19, 25-26 as the reading. The evening lesson as we continue in Ephesians will be ***“The Walk of the Old Man,”*** with Ephesians 4:17-19 as our text.

**BIBLE CLASSES Wednesday,** our study in the history of the church will begin with “XXXV” on our lesson sheets, as we note some more early problems in the Restoration Move-ment. I hope to have the new lesson sheet ready by then in spite of some computer problems. **Next Sunday** we should be in the early verses of Acts 18, depending upon this morning's progress.

**Prayer Needs:** Paul has both good days and bad, and improvement is slow. He now has a staph infection. Keep him, Nadine and family in your prayers. \*\*\* Continue to remember

Inez, Dean, Lester (improving), Woody, Rodger, Linda's brother (cancer) and cousin, Charles Moore (Tex.), and Lewis Carter (Ind./Fla.). Boyd's brother, Vic, has greatly improved, and also his wife. Remember our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as they seek a way for peace.

**POTTER'S CHILDREN'S HOME** change cans are on the stand in the foyer. I'm not sure when the Potter van will be by, but if you haven't picked up a can yet, this is a good way to put loose change to good use.



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