

# 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.

March 30, 2008

### **A \$2,800 BIBLE?**

The shaky conditions of his economy led the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, to declare an all-out price-fixing in history's first attempt to curtail inflation. The edict, proclaimed in A.D. 300, set the price of beer, soap, food and even the Bible!

To afford a complete Bible at the emperor's price, the average American would probably have to mortgage his house. Under the edict you were charged for a Bible on this basis: A scribe's work was price-fixed at \$2.80 per 100 stychoi (one stychos equals the one line of Homeric 16 syllable verse). For carefully copying 18,302 stychoi—the complete New Testament—he would receive the fixed figure of \$512.45 (in today's currency) and not a drachma more or less. For copying the complete Bible he would receive \$2,800. You paid, in addition, the cost of the papyri (a type of paper), which was in short production and price-fixed under the luxuries category.

Just think, for \$3.00 you can now buy a Bible with full-color maps—at a savings of \$2,797.00! How many Bibles would you have at \$2,800.00 each? How much would you read the Bible if you paid \$2,800.00 for it? It's the same Book either way.

--Edd Sterchi, Highway church (Sullivan) bulletin, 12-16-'07

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** is comprised of 66 words. The Ten Commandments contain 179 words. The Declaration of Independence, 1300 words. U.S. government regulations on the sale of cabbage, 26,911 words.

**"THE GREATEST GLORY** of a freeborn people is to transmit that freedom to their children."(William Havard)

--Trib-Bits, Decatur Herald

# SIN

The following is from a March 13 *OneNewsNow*-article by Allie Martin, entitled, "Survey reveals variations in peoples' perceptions of 'sin.'"

A new survey finds many inconsistencies among Americans when it comes to beliefs about sin.

The survey, conducted by *Elison Research*, polled 1,000 American adults. Among the findings, 87 percent of Americans believe in the concept of sin – which was defined in the research as "something that is almost always considered wrong, particularly from a religious or moral perspective."

Among those who believe in sin, 81 percent classified adultery as sin, 74 percent named racism, 65 percent said using hard drugs was sin, 52 percent named homosexuality, and 56 percent said having an abortion was sin. Ron Sellers, president of *Elison Research*, says while most Americans believe in the concept of sin, there are inconsistencies when it comes to what qualifies as sin.

"For instance, Americans do tend to define sin according to degrees," Sellers explains. "We have 81 percent who say yes, adultery is a sin. However, only 43 percent say having sexual thoughts about someone you're not married to is a sin. Same thing on drinking – only 14 percent believe that drinking any alcohol is a sin, yet significantly more than that believe that getting drunk is a sin."

The researcher is convinced that religious leaders can learn a lot from the survey. "A lot of religious leaders would be very surprised to find out what 'their own people' believe," he shares. [Many] evangelical leaders would say, 'Wow – that's all the evangelicals that believe such-and-such is a sin? [And] a lot of the Catholic leaders would be very surprised at some of these findings as well."

Sellers says the survey shows a need by pastors to investigate and dialogue about absolute truth and sin with members of their congregations.

What I find particularly significant in the above article is the evident lack of understanding what sin actually is. My impression is that sin is defined more and more by what one's culture regards as sin. For instance, while homosexuality a generation ago would almost universally have been considered a sin, now it is only a very slim majority that would so define it. Only a slightly larger majority believes that the killing of a baby in a womb is a sin. In the former instance, public opinion has been swayed by favorable media coverage, and the opposition to what the Bible calls an "abomination" (Lev. 18:22) as "homophobic," intolerant and judgmental. Schools now are teaching even the youngest of students that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle, and a cause to be celebrated, irrespective of parents' objections. From this worldly perspective, what the Bible calls sin—even an

abomination—must now be accepted, while opposition to what the Bible calls sin must be condemned as sin.

Contrary to growing public opinion, sin is not to be defined by what society defines as sin, a definition that will become increasingly liberal and decadent, but rather by an unchangeable authority: God. His word (the Scriptures) defines his laws, and to transgress His laws is defined by Him as sin (1 John 3:4). Whether the action is homosexuality, lust, abortion, or any other socially acceptable practice, our acceptance of it will make it no less of a sin. There is "absolute truth and sin," and it will be defined in Judgment by His word (John 12:48).  
—Ron

**WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. We are especially appreciative of any that may be VISITORS. We hope you found a blessing in being here, and look for your soon return.

**"I AM THE TRUE VINE"**; another of the claims of Christ, will be this morning's message as we continue in our series on **"John—the Theologian."** The reading will be John 15:1-8.

**SONG SERVICE** We hope you will be back with us this evening for our last-Sunday-night-of-the-month Song Service. Requests are being accepted.

**NEXT SUNDAY**, in continuing our series on John, the lesson will be, **"John and the Son of Man"**. With John 8:20-30 as the reading. The evening message will be, **"Ministries,"** as we continue our **Ephesians** series. The reading will be Eph. 4:1-16.

**BIBLE CLASSES** **Wednesday's** study will begin with "XXXIII-4" on our latest lesson-sheet as we study the history of the church. Currently we are seeing some of the early controversies in the Restoration Movement. Extra copies are on the literature table. **Next Sunday's** lesson will be near the end of Acts 17, depending upon our progress this morning.

**Prayer List:** Paul is having a bad reaction to antibiotics. for his infection Keep him, Nadine and family in your prayers. \*\*\* Remember Linda's brother, Truman, who has been diagnosed as having cancer. She also has a cousin who is ill. \*\*\* Continue to remember Dean, Inez, Doris, Lyla, Lester, Woody, Boyd's brother (Vic), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis Carter (Ind./Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as they seek a way for peace. Above all, pray that more will find Him who is the Prince of Peace.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to Linda upon the passing this past week of her aunt, Bassie Spear, a member of the Kemp church. She was a frequent visitor at our gospel meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.