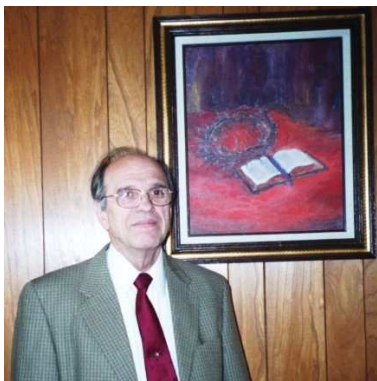

THE SOWER

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.....1:30 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.

November 2, 2008

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible—Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task—but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation. Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd...and that's all I need to know."
--Selected

THE LAMB OF GOD

John the Baptist had been preaching with fire and passion in anticipation of the emergence of the Messiah. When the Christ appeared in public to begin His ministry and John saw Him walking toward him, the prophet announced, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

It would have been accurate for John to say, "Behold the Lion of Judah who has come to lead the people of God to victory." He could have shouted, "Behold the Son of David, the King of Israel who has come to rule the nations." Yet, he didn't. Instead John proclaimed the plan for Christ to come and offer His earthly body as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. What would be His greatest deed, the greatest manifestation of His identity? His greatest hour was His shameful death as a condemned criminal on the cross.

All the Old Testament sacrifices make sense now. They were shadows of the one great event when the Son of God would walk to Calvary as a lamb led to the slaughter and humbly submit to death so that men might live.

"Behold the Lamb of God"—Fall down before this unselfish King and give Him your praise, your love, and your life (Revelation 5:6-9).

—Source unknown

NO GOD, NO WORRIES?

The British Humanist Association has begun a “Bus Campaign.” On the sides of British busses, they have printed the following: “There’s Probably No God. Now Stop Worrying And Enjoy Your Life.”

Well, there are many things I might say about this, but I will confine my remarks to just this thought. Convincing one there is no God is not reason to stop worrying, but rather gives one reason to worry!

Without God, ethics and morals are independent and autonomous. “Right” and “wrong” are determined in the mind of every individual. What right would one have to impose his ethics on another person? If there is no objective, God-given standard, then logically one could do as he pleased. Now that’s the kind of world in which I would worry about living!

The British Humanist Association claims to represent people who have ethical concerns, but are non-religious. But that is the Achilles heel of atheism. Atheism provides no values, no code of ethics, no standard by which to measure any human conduct. If there is no God; if one is nothing more than a biological accident; if one is accountable to no one; if one is here today and gone tomorrow; then why shouldn’t one live as he chooses? What possible reason would one have to deny himself gratification in order to demonstrate love, patience and compassion for others?

Contrary to the campaign slogan, you better start worrying if there is no God!

--Steve Higginbotham, *MercEmail*

(NOTE: While the vast majority in our nation continue to claim a belief in God, it is becoming increasingly difficult to see the evidence of it. Judeo-Christian values are treated as archaic relics of a bygone era. Couples find no shame in what was once called “shacking up” prior to (or instead of) marrying. Homosexuality is now just another chosen lifestyle—one that in many schools is being promoted to even very young children as on a par with heterosexuality. To oppose it is to be branded as a homophobe and hate-monger. To preach

against it is to call for accusations of “hate-speech.” Same-sex-marriage is being accepted in some states, and is being promoted as a right, thus redefining the universally accepted, and Biblically described concept of the union of a man and woman. Abortion—the taking of the life of an unborn child—is somehow read into the Constitution by liberal judges as a “choice—obviously not a choice of the child, but of the mother. The intended victims of abortion-attempts who survive the ordeal are left unattended until they die—a practice politicians refuse to oppose lest they somehow negate *roe-v-wade*. But these have not been the hot-topic-controversies in the current political debates. Politicians of both major parties have become aware that these are not the concerns of most. Apparently all considerations of such by the majority are perceived as insignificant in consideration of who is most qualified to make sure our financial well being. This is called “materialism”—one definition of which is: “a doctrine that the only or the highest values or objectives lie in material well-being and in the furtherance of material progress” (*Merriam Webster’s Deluxe Dictionary*). By definition, our nation has become a secular, materialistic society—the only kind that Atheism feels comfortable with. Our worries should be whether God will any longer tolerate such, and allow our nation to be brought down. [Read Psa. 9:17.] --Ron)

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE this Tuesday. The vote of informed Christians can make a difference. Let your voice be heard.

“His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed. Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory: Amen, and Amen” (Psalms 72:17-19).

“CHANGE” will be this morning’s sermon-topic, using the same text as last Sunday morning—2 Corinthians 5:17. The evening message, a continuance of the “***Preaching From Galatians***” series—“***Free to Overcome the Flesh***,” and the reading and text will be Galatians 6:16-21.

NEW TIME FOR WEDNESDAY CLASS:

Beginning this Wednesday, our Bible class will meet at 1:30 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m. Do you have neighbors and friends who may be interested in an afternoon Bible-study class? Invite them to come with you. Currently our study is of the “seven churches of Asia” described in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation. This Wednesday we begin with chapter 3 –the church at Sardis.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Continue to remember Paul and Nadine, Inez, Dean, Lyla, Lester, Rodger, Mary’s mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis Carter (Ind.), Lola Hilliard (Tenn.), Doris’s former brother-in-law (Frank), Ed and Norma Stocker (Ind.), and John Kurr (Sullivan; recovering nicely from back surgery). Also Sammie’s niece in Tenn. who has had surgery. Let’s not forget our men and women serving our country, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as they seek a way for peace in our world. Pray for our nation as we engage in an election process that will affect our country for years to come.
