

The Sower

The Lord's Day-----August 20, 2017

Arthur Church of Christ

415 W 4th Street, Arthur, IL 61951

Preacher: Ron Bartanen

Times of Worship

9:30 a.m. (Bible Classes)-----10:30 a.m. (Morning Worship)----1:30 p.m. (Wednesday Bible Class)

New Web Site: <http://arthurcoc.com>

Check out the **Apologetics Press Website**

<http://apologeticspress.org>

MY STUBBORN WILL

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would have none of it!” (Matthew 23:37, NET).

Jesus knew the city of Jerusalem so well. He had witnessed its founding and watched as King David took the city and made it his capital. But He had also watched Jerusalem overcome by the idolatry and sin that characterized it in the Divided Kingdom, and saw it led into bitter captivity to the Babylonians.

In His life on earth, Jesus must have had fond memories of his trips to Jerusalem as a boy, and remembered His visits to the city while He

was preaching the truth. In Matthew 23:37 it is difficult to read His words without thinking of the sadness that must have accompanied them. He loved Jerusalem and the people who lived there, as He loved all people everywhere.

He said He wanted so much to “gather your children together.” Then came the saddest part of the passage when He said, “but you would have none of it!” The stubborn will of the Jews shortchanged them of the glory they could have known with the Creator of the universe. How sad to hear—“but you would have none of it!”

Lelia N. Morris, an Ohio woman who, along with her sister and mother, owned a ladies' hat

shop, wrote more than a thousand hymns, usually while she did her housework. She wrote the hymn, "My Stubborn Will" in 1900.

"My stubborn will at last hath yielded: I would be thine and thine alone: And this the prayer my lips are bringing, 'Lord, let in me thy will be done.'"

Jesus would gather all of humanity together for protection and salvation, but how many would

"have none of it?" So many people have refused the kindness of our Lord simply because they cannot turn their backs on sin. Are you willing to allow the Master to change your life so that in you His will will be done? Repent of sin and obey the gospel so that His will can be done in you.

-John Henson, McMinnville, TN, Forthright Magazine, <http://forthright.net>

"It is in men as in soils, where sometimes there is a vein of gold which the owner knows not of." (Jonathon Swift)

A BABY-KILLER HONORED

Emma Bonino—you may have never heard of her, but Pope Francis is said to have said of her that she is "among the great ones of Italy." Her "greatness" is in what she has accomplished since 1968. As reported in The Canada Free Press in an article by journalist David Martin, in these almost-50 years she is proud of the 6,000,000 (MILLION) babies she has killed by abortion. In addition to her infanticide, she is occupied in her public promotion of divorce, homosexuality, transgenderism, same-sex marriage, the liberalization of porn laws, mandatory sex-education, and the resurgence of Communism under the guise of immigration.

However, this article is not primarily about Emma Bonino, but about the pope, and what is happening in the Roman Catholic Church. In an Internet-article by "Rev. Austin Miles," we are told that the Pope evidently "winks at abortion, and sin in general," welcoming Bonino into the pulpit "to espouse her views during the service, the first which took place this past July 26th in the Church of San Defendente in Ronco di Cassato" Italy. Although acknowledging that Bonino "thinks differently than us," and recommending patience, he added, "You have to look at people, what they do." Good idea! She kills babies and glorifies sin! So then, why invite her? In reading of her, I am reminded of the Lord's rebuke of the church at Thyatira: "because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel...to teach and to seduce my servants..." (Rev. 2:20).

Bonino is said to have publicly praised Francis for "changing the Catholic Church." Of course the Catholic Church is changing. Hers is a history of change through apostasy, turning from the authority of Christ and the apostles to the authority of the pope, changes too numerous to mention in this short article. The Catholic Church now has a pope who is willing to take his church over the cliff. He was born and raised in the Communist country, Argentina. He was not from the College of Cardinals, but it is charged that George Soros, a man accused of attempting to bring our country down by paying for "protesters" (rioters) to divide us, has had great influence in the Vatican. It may not surprise us, therefore, that soon after appointment Francis said of his future influence, "We first must redistribute the wealth;" words from Marx's Communist Manifesto. This Pope was honored by Argentina's president with a hammer and sickle crucifix. This is surely one of the most dangerous popes in history as he increasingly becomes active in political issues.

--Ron

“And the multitude sternly told them to be quiet: but they cried out all the more, saying, ‘Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David. ‘” Matthew 20:31

Are we part of the solution or part of the problem? Paving the way or blocking the way? Some blind men were trying to get to Jesus for healing. The multitudes were not only blocking the way: they were discouraging the way. The blind men were persistent. After having their sight restored, let’s hope they were persistently crying out for spiritual sight. I would hope we would all make a commitment to be a guide for the blind. Do we know the way? The blind cannot lead the blind. If we aren’t part of the solution, we become part of the problem.

-David Grubb

“SALVATION BELONGS TO THE LORD” will be today’s message, with Psalm 3:8 as the text.

PRAY FOR: Eva is to have a cat-scan Wednesday. *** Ron’s infection has cleared up, and the bladder stone problem should be addressed the first week of September. *** Boyd is also free from his infection, and is to have some tests taken on the 25th. *** Kimmerly has been in a hospital in Texas, but hopes to be with us today. ***Continue to remember: Lyla (doing well at Arthur Home); Nadine; Linda; and Rodger. Remember our nation’s leaders that they may seek God’s wisdom in governing.