

# The Sower

The Lord's Day-----September 17, 2017

## Arthur Church of Christ

415 W 4<sup>th</sup> 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>

## JESUS AND THE BIBLE

What did Jesus teach about the Bible? This is an important question for there are many who claim to be followers of Christ who say that the Old Testament scriptures are not a reliable source of information. These deny the reliability of the account of creation, the Great Flood in the days of Noah, God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, etc. However, if Jesus is trustworthy, His word must be believed. What authority did He attribute to the Old Testament Scriptures?

Three times, when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He quoted Scripture (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; cf. Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 10:20), confronting Satan, prefacing each quote with one significant assertion: "It is written...." If He, and even Satan, believed the Old Testament Scriptures to be the word of God, not simply mythological stories and human opinions, Otherwise, His quotes would have carried no weight. When theological questions came up during His ministry, Jesus repeatedly cited Scripture as authority in making reply. For examples, read Matthew 9:3-6; 21:29-33, and John 10:33-36). In fact, Jesus emphasized the necessity of believing Scripture by telling the unbelieving: "Search the scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.... For had ye believed Moses, ye would

have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:38, 46-47).

Jesus believed the Old Testament Scriptures to be so reliable, in fact, that He declared that not so much as a jot (the smallest Hebrew letter) or tittle (a small punctuation mark) would pass from the Law till all was fulfilled (Matthew 5:18). On still another occasion, Jesus said plainly, "the scriptures cannot be broken" (John 10:35). The apostle Paul would later affirm, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God...that the man of God may be furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The New Testament Scriptures are equally reliable, inasmuch as Jesus' promised to His disciples that following His departure into heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth", who would guide them "into all truth" (John 16:13).

How do you regard the Bible? Jesus put His stamp of approval upon it. To disregard the teachings of the Bible is to disregard the teachings of Jesus, who said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). We live in a day when it has become fashionable to rely more upon human authority than upon the revealed, Holy Spirit inspired word of God. If you are serious about being received into glory at the coming of Jesus Christ, you must seriously make the study of the Bible a priority in your life.

—Ron

***"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil: that put darkness for light, and light for darkness: that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter." (Isaiah 5:20)***

## EVIDENCE FROM ANATOMY

**Our blood vessels are an incredible pipeline system** which networks our entire body. These vessels come in 3 basic types: arteries, veins, and capillaries. The capillaries (microscopic vessels that link the smallest arteries to the veins) are the most abundant type of blood vessels. About 40 capillaries laid end to end measure only one inch. Yet they are so enormous that **if all of the capillaries in your body were laid end-to-end they would stretch around the equator two times!**

Blood is pumped into the capillaries with enough force to drive the plasma through the porous walls of these tiny vessels, thus nourishing surrounding cells. However, the pressure is not so great that the red and white blood cells are lost or the capillaries burst. **There must be an absolutely perfect balance** of pressure between the blood flowing within the vessel, the blood being forced through the vessel walls, and the blood in and around the body's cells. Without question, the design of our blood vessels and the perfect balance of pressure required to maintain life is testimony to our Designer.

**Psalm 136:4 (NIV): "To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.**

*--Logansport (IN) Lifelines*

## "MOTHER NATURE"

For those who cannot conceive of the existence of the divine Creator, there seems to be no problem in accepting "Mother Nature." According to certain sources, many of which are firmly situated in our universities, this goddess has poured out her fury upon us in the recent hurricanes due to our national refusal to recognize "Man-Made-Climate-Change." In their minds, the biblical God,

portrayed as Creator and Sustainer of our world, is archaic, and unsuited for today's secular culture. This, of course, is nothing new. The apostle Paul warned of those who "changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature (creation) more than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:25).

It's been reported that a professor in the art department of the University of California, Santa Cruz, went (at tax-payers expense, obviously) "on a speaking tour to propose the new, exciting leftist concept of 'ecosexuality,' having filmed a documentary four years ago entitled "Ecosexual Love Story". She is said to be "making love to the Earth", supposedly to save the planet. Her "ecosexual partner" is the Earth. We are seeing a resurgence of raw paganism in our enlightened, scientific culture, in which the created are worshipped rather than the Creator. I suppose they regard "Mother Nature" more understanding and compliant with the way they choose to go. It seems that the outstanding "sin" is man-made-pollution. Cut back on human life, and get rid of pesky future-polluters through such means as abortion, and "save the planet." Certain senators are said to have also been looking into a legal way in which Climate-Change-Deniers might be penalized, or even jailed.

Whether the object of our worship is "Mother Earth," pseudo-science, celebrities, the government, or anything other than the Creator, such a religion is satanic, If "satanic" is too strong a term for it, perhaps the word "silliness" would be less offensive. -Ron

***"A NEW BEGINNING"*** will be today's message, with Genesis 8:13-22 as the reading, as we continue our series on "The Great Flood."

**PRAYER LIST:** Lyla; Ron (no word yet as to the infection); Nadine; Linda; Rodger; our service men and women; those persecuted for their faith in Christ, many of whom are driven from their homes, imprisoned, tortured, crucified (even children); etc. \*\*\* Pray for a strengthening of faith as we face a world that will test our faith.

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