

# The Sower

The Lord's Day

October 29, 2017

## Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arthur, IL 61911-1303

Minister: Ron Bartanen



**Welcome** to today's Bible Class or Worship assembly! If you are a **VISITOR** we really appreciate your decision to meet with us. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.

**Have you checked out our website lately? ([www.arthurcoc.com](http://www.arthurcoc.com))**

Be sure to visit the "Website Favorites" link for a variety of information on many topics.

Bible Classes -----9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship-----10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study-----1:30 P.M.

## RESCUED FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS

(The following article is from Larry Miles, the manager of our web site, written a few years ago. Until I have more relief from bladder spasms resulting from a bladder stone, I will be borrowing more articles from others. It is difficult concentrating on new material when in my present condition. Thanks, Larry, for a reminder of the believer's status in Christ.)

*"For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:13-14).*

Most of us, I'm quite sure, prefer light to darkness. Without Jesus, all of us were in darkness, members, although we may not have known it, in the kingdom of Satan. Our heavenly Father desired that we all come to a saving knowledge, and has provided the means through His Son, the Lord Jesus. We are glad that we can share in the inheritance He has for us (Col. 1:12).

The Word of God describes this transformation as changing kingdoms. We have been brought out of darkness into the marvelous light of the Gospel. The terminology used here by Paul is a military illustration. It pictures Rome going into a free country and as a result of waging war and winning they subdue that nation and take them into captivity. But in the spiritual realm we are the ones in bondage, and when

we accept the Lord Jesus and obey the Gospel we are “transferred” (NASV) or “translated” (KJV), or are “conveyed” (NKJV) out of that bondage into the light of the Gospel. But it does not end there.

Since we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins (Col. 1:14) we must put our new-found faith to the test. We have been called out of that dark kingdom, changed by the light of the Gospel, and now have the privilege to go back into that kingdom, now empowered by the Holy Spirit and utilizing the Whole Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20) to help others find their way out. We can never work our way to heaven, but upon salvation we are to be the best workers the Lord has. Let’s be found letting our light shine for Jesus (1 Peter 2:10)!

**“...who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” 2 Timothy 1:10)**

## PUMPKIN

A lady had recently been baptized. One of her coworkers asked her what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer, but when she looked up, she saw a jack-o'-lantern on the desk and answered, "It's like being a pumpkin." The co-worker asked her to explain.

"Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from lying on the ground in the pumpkin patch. Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see. It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

--- Author Unknown, from the Morro Bay, CA bulletin.via *Bulletin Gold*

## THE DEVIL—HE’S REAL!

Halloween, my least-favorite holiday of the year, dwells predominantly upon the occult, such as ghosts and witches, both of which dwell upon the dark side of the super-natural—the dark kingdom of Satan. Some would deny that such a realm exists. A recent survey of Americans revealed that about 60% of Americans believe Satan is nothing more than a personification of evil. The Bible, however, teaches us otherwise—from Genesis to Revelation. He is seen as the antithesis of God, involving mankind in rebellion against God.

**All evil** has its origin with the devil, not with God. He is a liar and a murderer (John 8:44). All who advocate the death of the innocent, including children yet in the womb, are agents promoting Satan’s agenda. (Continue next column)

**Satan will be ultimately destroyed.** The first promise after the fall of man was that there would be the seed (descendant) of the woman who would render a mortal wound upon Satan (Gen. 3:15). Jesus, the promised seed, came to “destroy the works of the devil” (John 3:8). He did this through His death for our

sins, and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Ultimately, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). Make no mistake about it—The devil is real!

--Ron; article in *Arthur Graphic*, 10-31-'12

## HEAVENLY SILENCE

No need for words—He knows.  
His will be done—not thine.  
When all around seems desolate  
He gives His love divine.  
He will not let thee fall:  
His hand is there to guide.  
If thou shouldst think Him gone,  
He'll still be at thy side.  
Although thy spirit breaks  
When striving for thy goal,  
Think thou of Him—He understands  
And cares for every soul

--Jackie Fitch

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Doris and I want to thank all who have remembered us in prayers. In some ways I'm doing better, and thank the Lord for it. It may be two to five months yet before the bladder stone can be surgically removed due to being temporarily on blood-thinner, seeking to rid me of the blood clots in my lungs and left leg. Pray that I may soon be able to resume preaching. Doris is handicapped by her spinal problem. We help each other. +++ I've been unable to visit Lyla in the Arthur Home, but we need to keep her in our prayers. While we all are subject to illnesses, may we never forget the power of prayer, seeking God's will in each situation.