

The Sower

The Lord's Day

March 4, 2018

Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th 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)

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.

Please Note: This is Larry Miles, I maintain the web site for the Arthur Church of Christ—I want to apologize for not getting the site updated for the last 2 month. We will try to get back "in the groove."
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SILLY SHEEP

On a cold day in winter, Joe was sliding on a frozen pond when the ice broke. Luckily he was able to get out of the water and crawl to safety. He went home in his wet clothes almost frozen. His aunt asked him why he was sliding on the ice. "Because all the other boys did," he answered. She gave him dry clothes and something warm to drink. Then she told him a story.

"When I was a little girl, Joe, my father had a great flock of sheep. One day a big ram jumped through a gap in the fence. He was followed by the other sheep. When the ram tumbled into the bottom of an old well where father used to throw rubbish, the next sheep never stopped to see what had become of him. He jumped in right after the ram, and so did the next one, and the next. The sheep kept jumping into the well until it was full. Then father pulled them out as best he could. The sheep at the bottom of the well were almost smothered to death."

“What silly sheep!” exclaimed Joe. Then suddenly a look of discernment came over his face, and he smiled at his aunt. He had gotten the point of the story. If we simply follow others without watching where we are going, we may land in trouble. The book of Psalms opens with some timeless wisdom on this subject (Ps. 1:13; cf. Prov. 1:15-16;4:14).

--Joel Stephen Williams, *Logansport (IN) Lifelines*

THE LAST WORLD WAR I VETERAN

While I was watching the History channel, I was telling my children that when I was their age, I knew many World War I veterans. The very next day, one of the lead news stories was the passing of the oldest American veteran from World War I. His name was Frank Buckles. He was born in 1901 and lived to the age of 110.

Are you kidding me? How can it be? Where have all these people gone? How can it be that the last of that generation was 110 years old? Where has time gone?

While generations have come and gone since the beginning of time, this one has come and gone in my lifetime, and it has caused me to muse and think about the brevity of life. Time moves on. It seems like yesterday that I watched as men from both WWI and WWII marched down the streets in Veterans parades. But apparently it's been longer than yesterday.

Friends, you had better serve the Lord while you can, because sooner than you realize, your time on earth will be done. “What is your life? It is but a vapor that appears for a short time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).

Steve Higginbotham

“GOD HAS SPOKEN”

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1).

“**Authority**” has become a dirty word to many in our permissive pluralistic society. Authority, by its very nature, restricts one's belief-system. It likewise restricts one's behavior, which is especially distasteful to many. The truth of the matter, however, is that “**God has spoken.**” By reason of who God is, His word has the weight of absolute authority.

Prior to the coming of Christ, God's message was through inspired prophets. Regarding chiefly the writings of Old Testament scripture, Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Peter, in like manner, wrote concerning prophetic scripture,

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:19, 21). God now speaks to man also through His Son. This message, however, is not confined to the red letters in your Bible. Jesus told His chosen apostles, “He who hears you, hears Me: he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me” (Luke 10:16). While Jesus’ apostles are no longer among us personally, their message is. That message is found in your New Testament. The apostle Paul wrote, “When you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ...as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 3:4-5).

While multitudes have a smorgasbord-faith, where they think they can pick-and-choose what to believe and what to reject, the true disciple of Jesus Christ will appreciate the fact that the totality of God’s word is truth, and will earnestly endeavor to conform his belief-system and conduct to that truth.

--Ron

“If people cannot write well, they cannot think well; and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them>” (George Orwell)

ATHEISM DESCRIBED

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick: who can understand it? ‘I, the LORD, search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds” (Jeremiah 17:9-10, ESV). The context of these words pertains to a religious people, but it is just as aptly applied to the one who describes himself as an atheist. Atheism is only an ideology of this world and, as has been said, there are no dead atheists. Atheism likes to promote itself as a “rational” ideology and disparage theism as irrational. However, debate after debate shows just how irrational and entirely hopeless atheism actually is. The heart is deceitful above all things, the Lord said. We can be sure the atheist will not allow his heart, in so far as he is able, to be exposed to show his hopelessness. However, how about you as a Christian.? Have you allowed your heart to deceive you? Measure your heart in relation to God and His word. It is a challenge for us each day.

--Ron Thomas, The Lantern, Sullivan, IL

A VOICE FROM THE PAST—

“Let Us have faith that right makes might: and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.” (Abraham Lincoln)

“God is the silent partner in all great enterprises.” (Abraham Lincoln)