

THE SOWER  
ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Have you visited our web site lately? ([www.Arthurcoc.com](http://www.Arthurcoc.com))

*PRESIDENTS HAVE SAID—*

“It is impossible to govern the world without God. He must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligation>”  
(George Washington)

“Have you ever found in history one single example of a Nation thoroughly corrupted that was afterwards restored to virtue?... Will you tell me how to prevent luxury from producing effeminacy, intoxication, extravagance, vice and folly?... I believe no effort in favour of virtue is lost...” (John Adams, letter to Thomas Jefferson)

“Sir, I care not whether God is on our side: my great concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right” (Abraham Lincoln)

“The true Christian is the true citizen, lofty of purpose, resolute in endeavor, ready for a hero’s deeds, but never looking down on his task because it is cast in the day of small things; scornful of baseness, awake to his own duties as well as to his rights, following the higher law with reverence, and in this world doing all that in his power lies, so that when death comes he may feel that mankind is in some degree better because he lived.” (Theodore Roosevelt, Dec. 30, 1900)

“The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.” (John Calvin Coolidge)

## DO YOU FEEL GOOD?

It is God's will that people be able to feel good about themselves. A part of the mission of the church is to make people feel good. At the same time, it is not to gloss over sin with a kind of "I'm okay, you're okay, everyone's okay" philosophy. We need to feel bad before we can feel good. I mean by this that the Bible teaches that "There is none righteous, no not one...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:10, 23).

The Bible speaks of us as being lost, and Jesus came to "seek and save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10). It was through His blood shed at Calvary that Jesus made available to us the "remission of sins" (Romans 3:25). Those who through penitent faith in Christ are "baptized into Christ...(and) into his death" are then raised from the watery grave of baptism to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4), thus being enabled to truly feel good about themselves. Salvation is the aim, and happiness is the result, regardless of unhappy circumstances in one's life. In Christ one can through pride, but through

(Continued from front) trusting the grace of God available to us in Christ. As Paul wrote, "Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Truly, Jesus is "the Way" to the Father—"the Way" of salvation and true and lasting happiness. (John 14:6).

—Ron

## MAKING THE CHURCH GLORIOUS AGAIN

*"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet." —Matt. 5:13 ESV*

God says that His glorious Church is to be a bride. No church building existed until 265 AD, yet the greatest revival of all time shook the world as it had never been shaken. When did this dynamic move stop? It came to a halt in the third century when Constantine legalized Christianity and made it a state religion.

People also began to look at the structure—in this day, that would be the musical instruments, praise team, air conditioning, sound system, and preacher. Sadly, they took their eyes off Jesus, the true Source.

Today, God wants to make the church glorious again. The Church is to be salt, able to preserve. “You are the salt of the earth,” God is saying. “Be my bride. Salt the world that is decaying and bring it back to me.” But you won’t build a church or develop maturity through advertising or marketing techniques.

If you want God to birth His /Church, you have to say, “God, help me to apply these New Testament principals until I become salt and light.”  
Jerusalem

--Mike Evans,

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## UNITY IN CHRIST

The unity of believers in Christ should be a constant effort. The apostle Paul urged believers, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (1 Corinthians 1:10). But where is such unity to be found?

**(1) Unity will not be found in human creeds and opinions,** but in the divine creed as confessed by the apostle Peter: “*Thou (Jesus) art the Christ, the Son of the living God*”(Matt. 16:16-18). Before baptism, the Ethiopian confessed, “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*” (Acts 8:37). Believing that, we will believe all that He teaches and obey all that He commands. United in the basics of the Christian faith, believers should, in love, seek a fuller understanding of all that God has revealed to us in His word, realizing always the fallibility of man.

**(2) Unity will not be found in ecclesiastical rules of faith and practice.** Only the Scriptures are adequate to direct the conscience and faith of the believer. Paul reminded the young evangelist Timothy, “All scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

**(3) Unity will not be found in sectarian names.** Even the apostle Paul objected to the use of his name in a divisive way (1 Cor. 3:3 f.f.). Let us honor Christ through wearing the name Christian (1 Peter 4:11). Only His name will unite.

--Ron

**PRAY FOR:** Sammie's surgery is scheduled for Feb. 15 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital. \*\*\* The date for my cataract surgery has not been set, but I am having preliminary laser procedures in both eyes. David Ferguson and Bill Livesay' (Mattoon) underwent the kidney transplant successfully this past week. Both are doing very well and, as I write this, David has returned home. The transferred kidney is functioning well. Many prayers have been again answered.