

**THE SOWER**  
**ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Have you visited our web site lately? ([www.Arthurcoc.com](http://www.Arthurcoc.com))

**“HE IS RISEN!”**

Every first day of the week, not just Easter Sunday, is “Resurrection Day” for the child of God. It was on “the first day of the week” that Jesus rose victorious from the grave (Mark 16:2; Luke 24; John 20:1)). It was on “the first day of the week” that the disciples, in memory of Jesus, met to “break bread” in observance of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). Of what significance is Jesus’ resurrection?

By Jesus’ resurrection He is proven to be “the Son of God with power”, the apostle Paul declared in Romans 1:4. This “power” is life-giving power. Other religious leaders have come and gone. Moses died and is no more with us. So also are false teachers such as Mohammed, Confucius, and Buddha. , As all others before and since, these have all fallen before the “grim reaper”, and have not found the means to break his bands asunder. But the Lord Jesus proved Himself victorious over death, hell and the grave. As victor, He declared to John in Revelation 1:18, “*I am he that liveth, and was dead, and, behold, I am alive evermore. Amen: and have the keys of hell and of death.*” At His return He will use those keys to set free all His faithful ones.

Because He was raised, we can have hope. “*If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, we are yet in our sins. Then they which are fallen asleep in Jesus are perished*” (1 Corinthians 15:17-18). Even as reconciliation with God is accomplished by His death, so “*we shall be saved by his life*”(Romans 5:10). This hope was thus expressed to the Corinthians: “*But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept, for since by man (Adam) came death, by man (Christ) came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming*” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

In anticipation of our future resurrection, we are called upon to identify by faith with His death and resurrection in baptism. We are to be “*baptized into Jesus Christ...into his death,*” and be raised up to “*walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:3-4). Have you committed your life to Christ and received His gift of salvation made available by grace through His death and resurrection? If we can assist you, contact

us.

-Ron

# HAPPY EASTER

## VALUABLE ORANGES

*"To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).*

One of the most tragic accidents that has ever happened came about in the mid-Atlantic, April 14, 1912

The *Titanic*, one of the largest vessels of all time, hit an iceberg and sank within a few hours. Many stories of heroism and courage have been written about this incident. Many women chose to go down with their husbands. The band played "Nearer My God to Thee."

One woman who was allotted space on one of the rescue boats asked permission to return to her stateroom. She was given three minutes. In that stateroom, money and jewels were scattered all over the floor, but she took no heed of them. Rather, she snatched three oranges and hurried back to the boat.

It seems almost incredible that the woman preferred oranges to diamonds. But, you see, death had boarded the *Titanic*, and with one blast of his awful breath, transformed all values—precious things became worthless and worthless things became precious.

Death has a funny way of changing things. All of the things we work for and worry about seem reasonable until they are viewed in the light of our own death. The pursuit of pleasurable things seems most reasonable until one thinks about death. Striving for fame would also seem reasonable until one ponders the grave. Death just has a way of changing one's perspective.

The thing that happened on the *Titanic* actually happens every day—but remember: values transformed at death are values transformed too late. Will you transform your values now? --Norman Martin, *House to House/Heart to Heart*

*"Godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Timothy 6:6-8).*

## MEMORABLE QUOTES

- Words are best kept sweet and soft because someday you may have to eat them.
- What's the use of having ignorance if you can't show it? (Lou Costello)
- If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
- Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain, and most fools do. (Benjamin Franklin)
- He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know. (Abraham Lincoln)
- The same fire purifies gold and consumes straw (Italian proverb)

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Sammy, David Ferguson and Bill Livesay all continue to do well in their recovery. \*\*\* Wayne Polk (Shelbyville) is undergoing tests. \*\*\* Cancer has been determined on my right outer ear, requiring removal of the upper portion on May 9. Procedures for cataract surgeries have been postponed.