

# 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))

### HARVEST TIME

It won't be long before Illinois farmers will be in their fields harvesting corn and soybeans, all of which had been planted in early spring with the expectation of reaping what they had sown. Every farmer is aware of the truth of the Biblical adage, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 4:7).

A farmer had posted "No Trespassing" signs on the fences surrounding his property in an attempt to keep mischievous boys of the neighborhood out of his orchard. It has been reported that one embittered young lad vowed to get even, and he set out to gather as much Johnson grass seed as he could. Under the cover of darkness he sowed the seed across all the farmer's fields. Johnson grass seed sown produced Johnson grass in abundance, and it spread rapidly. The farmer found it impossible to eradicate it. A few years later the young man fell in love with the farmer's daughter, and soon married her. When the farmer later died, his daughter and her husband. Inherited the farm—including the Johnson grass.

Man is prone to forget that what we sow in this life we will reap in the life to come. Paul wrote, "He that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:8). Sowing to the flesh is living for self. Sowing to the Spirit is to live for the Lord, submissive to the Holy Spirit and His word. What will be your harvest? --Ron

**"The grand essentials** in this life are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." (Allison)

**"Self respect** can never be bought, but it can always be sold." (Anonymous)

"Most politicians have three hats—one they toss into the ring, the second they pass, and the third they talk through." (Anonymous)

"We are so smart in America we can walk on the moon, but it is not safe to walk in the park." (Vance Havner)

"Among those who dislike oppression are many who like to oppress." (Napoleon Bonaparte)

## ABUNDANT LIFE

A university professor tells of being invited to speak at a military base one December, and there meeting an unforgettable soldier named Ralph. Ralph had been sent to meet him at the airport. After they had introduced themselves, they headed toward the baggage claim.

As they walked down the concourse, Ralph kept disappearing. Once to help an older woman whose suitcase had fallen open. Once to lift two toddlers up to where they could see Santa Claus, again to give directions to someone who was lost. Each time he came back with a smile on his face.

“Where did you learn that?” the professor asked.

“What?” Ralph said.

“Where did you learn to live like that?”

“Oh Ralph said, “during the war, I guess.” He then told the professor about his tour of duty in Vietnam, how it was his job to clear minefields, how he watched his friends blow up before his eyes, one after another.

“I learned to live between steps,” he said. “I never knew whether the next one would be my last, so I learned to get everything I could out of the moment between when I picked up my foot and when I put it down again. Every step I took was a whole new world, and I guess I’ve been that way ever since.”

**The abundance of our lives is not determined by how long we live, but by how well we live.**

--Tim Allen, *Logansport (IN) Life!*

## WHY THE CHURCH?

Those searching for a church should ask the question, “Why the church? What is a church for?” Is it a place to go for entertainment? or a place to go for certain traditional rituals? Is it a place to go for “Bingo Night” or a bake sale? Is it just for socializing? Or maybe the keeping of a family tradition? Motives are many and varied.

But are these the criteria by which we should evaluate a church? Isn’t it time to discard the frivolous in religion and seek the basics as set forth in God’s word, the Bible?

The commission given the church by our Lord is not complex: “*Go teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you*” (Matt. 28:20). What is the church for? To present to the world the gospel (good news) of Christ, baptize believers, and to nurture them in the word of God. Paul,

speaking to the elders of the church at Ephesus, said, *“I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all them which are sanctified”* (Acts 20:32). That’s what a church is for, and that’s what we endeavor to do at the Arthur Church of Christ. Nothing fancy—just the plain, old-fashioned gospel of Christ preached, the word of God taught, prayer, congregational acapella singing, voluntary giving, and the observance of the Lord’s Supper in memory of Jesus Christ each Lord’s Day.

Put simply, the universal church is composed of all scripturally baptized believers in Christ the world over, and congregationally, such believers who are united in Christ, heeding and being nurtured in His word. Being spiritually members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:2), we must look to Him as our Head ((Colossians 1:18). It is as Paul admonished: *“”Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of (by the authority of) the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him”* (Colossians 3:17).  
–Ron

***“STANDING ON THE PROMISES”*** will be today’s message, with 2 Peter 1:1-4 as the reading.

**Continue to remember** Ruby Bradd, the young daughter of the Steve Bradds from Clinton.