

# THE SOWER, DEC. 15

Inbox



**Ronald Bartanen**

Sat, Dec 14, 2019,  
4:06 PM

to Ronald

THE SOWER  
ARTHUR CHURCH OF CHRIST  
415 W. 4TH STREET  
ARTHUR, IL 61911

**DECEMBER 15, 2019**

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

## **REPENT!**

Repentance is not a very popular topic in the pulpit (or elsewhere) in today's culture. The "I'm okay, you're okay" philosophy prevails instead of the call for repentance. The modern god of today's society is Tolerance.

**What is repentance?** It has been often well-defined as "a change of mind that results in a change of conduct." Someone has defined it as a sign on the highway of life that says, "You've traveled too far down the wrong road; it's time to turn around."

Noah's message from the steps of the ark was not, "Something good is going to happen to you." John the baptizer's message from the wilderness was not a mere, "Smile, God loves you," but, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3,1-2). Jesus' message, and that of the apostles, was not one of tolerance for sin, but, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Peter's message in Acts 2 included, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). From beginning to end, the Scriptures demand repentance . -Ron

--\*--

## WHOSE HAND IT IS IN

You place a basketball in my hand and we can play a pickup game of basketball.

You place a basketball in Michael Jordan's hand and you get six NBA championship rings. It just depends on whose hand it's in.

You place a football in my hand and I can toss it to my grandson. You place a football in Peyton Manning's hand and you get a \$19 million dollar contract. It just depends on whose hand it's in.

You place a mathematical formula in my hand and you get confusion. You place a mathematical formula in Albert Einstein's hand and you get the laws of relativity. It just depends on whose hand it's in.

You place a rod in my hand and I can beat an angry dog away from me. You place a rod in Moses' hand and he will part the Red Sea. It just depends on whose hand it's in.

You place a stone and a slingshot in my hand and you get a kid's toy. You place a stone and a slingshot in David's hand and you slay a giant. It just depends on whose hand it's in.

You place two fish and five loaves of bread in my hand, and you get a couple of sandwiches. You place them in Jesus' hand and 5,000 men are fed. It just depends on whose hand it's in. (Continued on back)

You place some nails in my hand and you might get a birdhouse. You place nails in Jesus' hand and you get the forgiveness of sins. It just depends on whose hand they're in.

--Paul Ciniraj, KneEmail, Mike Benson, editor

--\*--

## RENEWING VOWS

Queen Victoria received the stunning Kohinoor Diamond as a gift from a maharajah when he was a boy.

Later, as a grown man, this maharajah visited Queen Victoria again and asked for the stone. Taking the diamond and kneeling, the maharajah gave it to the Queen again, saying, "Your majesty, I gave you this jewel when I was a child, too young to know what I was doing. I want to give it to you again in the fullness of my strength, with all my heart and affection and gratitude, now and forever, fully realizing what I do."

Many Christians gave their hearts to Jesus as a child, but how wonderful to come with greater knowledge and maturity and say, "I know I'm Yours, but I want to be Yours with all my heart and affection, fully realizing all that I do."

Sometimes we need to renew our vows to Him, just as Peter did following the resurrection. Sacrificing for God is worth it, and a renewed commitment is like a fresh start with a tried and true friend. *—Turning Point Devotional*

--\*--

## **"ALMIGHTY!"**

***"Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise? (Psalm 196:2)***

**"Almighty!"** That's one of the names for God. He is everything we can imagine that is good, right and holy. But He is so much more! He is more than we can imagine, and so much more than we can declare. Even our greatest moments of praise are great understatements of His glory. *—Selected*

## **BITS OF WISDOM—**

- Kind actions begin with kind thoughts.
- None of us is responsible for all things that happen to us, but we are responsible for the way we act when they do happen.
  
- The test of a man's character is how he takes praise.

## **ANOTHER ATTACK ON CHRISTMAS**

Although we can find no scripture declaring we should regard Christmas as a God-given Holy Day, yet it is a time in which the world can once again be reminded of our Savior's coming to earth to become our Savior. However, its meaning has been largely lost to many, and even evoked a movement to totally secularize the day, stripping it of all public display of religiosity. Such has been evident the past few years as some advocate simply calling it a Winter Holiday, and demanding that we not be saying "Merry Christmas." Some aver that such might be offensive. Such attitudes betray an obvious effort by many to eradicate any form of Christianity from society. Now, with the popularizing of perverse sexual life-styles, a new step into utter madness is being advocated especially by the LBGTF radicals, calling on newspapers, movies, TV and department stores to transform the traditional bearded Santa Claus, suggesting he be replaced with a less offensive trans-gender Santa. What better way could secularists corrupt Christmas than by encouraging the little tots to look to a beloved transgendered Santa as a role-model?

--Ron

--\*--

***"CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS (3)—THE CHRISTIAN'S PRIZE"*** will be today's message, with Phil. 3:13-21 as the reading.

**PRAY FOR:** Little Ruby Bradd has completed her chemo treatments Her dad has said she will undergo other types of treatments, and the doctor is optimistic of results. \*\*\* Wayne Polk continues the process of recovery from a staph infection.

