

**THE SOWER
ARTUR CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Have you visited our web site lately? (www.arthucoc.com)

“OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE”

As we approach that day of the year our nation has selected as a day of Thanksgiving, we are troubled by the fact that to a great host of people the day is no more than what is sometimes referred to as “Turkey Day.” God is virtually out of the picture for many. It is as though, as a nation, we have become blind to the blessings that God has provided so abundantly for us. Our prayer should be as that of David, who prayed, ““Open thou my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psa. 119:18), then soon adding, “So shall I talk of thy wondrous works” (v. 27). God’s wondrous works are everywhere about us, but our failure to heed God’s laws have blinded us to them.

God’s works of creation stand as a daily reminder of His great power and beneficence. All of creation proclaims the wondrous works of God. Only those spiritually blind are unable to appreciate His provisions for man’s welfare. The apostle Paul spoke of those in this condition, writing, “For the invisible; things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Romans 1:20-21). With darkened hearts, and eyes that do not see, the world falls into eternal ruin. Only when their hearts cry out to God will their eyes of discernment be open to God’s words and works.

As Christians, may we not permit our eyes to be blinded by the world’s allurements, but open to the reality of God, and to the works of His hands. With opened eyes we will heed the apostle’s admonition, “In every-thing give thanks, for this is the will of Christ to you-ward” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Then we will be enabled to say with the psalmist, “So shall I talk of thy wondrous works.” With the wondrous works of God now even more revealed to us in Christ, it is all the more imperative that we share the gospel, the good

news of redemption provided in our crucified and risen Savior and Lord. Open eyes must result in open mouths—mouths that will share that which makes us most thankful, namely, the gift of God’s Son. Thanksgiving also results in thanks-living—the living-out of our faith. May our eyes be open to the opportunities available to assist others in sharing their burdens. In the words of Paul, “As we, have, therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).
–Ron

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

TODAY

Each day of life that dawns for me

Is dearer than it used to be,

And I am more content each day

To live each hour a better way:

I want for less—and ask for less

Of all that life proclaims is best,

And find my greatest need each day

Is just to worship God and pray.

I’m getting old and very tired

Of chasing dreams that youth inspired,

And tired of chasing after goals

That lack rewards for heart and soul;

Today—I only strive to find

A simple peace of heart and mind,
And try to make each dawning day
A bond of love to Heaven's way.

--Michael Dubina

SCRIPTURE POLICE

One of the all-time greats in this line of work was highly educated in scripture. When this “new sect” began to flourish, he was determined to set them straight and began to police the situation. He meant to stamp this out before it got out of hand. He was ready and willing to go to the ends of the earth to accomplish this task. The law called for the death sentence to be imposed on these offenders, and it was being carried out. There was one BIG problem. While he knew scripture, he didn't know Jesus. What he needed was an attitude adjustment. When that was fulfilled he (Paul) saw the light and the “error of his way,” and great things were achieved for the Lord.

It is important to know scripture. It is also necessary to understand that to the early Christians scripture was what we call the Old Testament. They searched the “scriptures” to see if these things were so. What they were looking for in the scriptures was Jesus. Paul himself reminded the Christians in 2 Corinthians 3:26, “He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.” He admits that knowing scripture can be deadly if you don't know Jesus. I guess we would have to conclude that Paul didn't really know scripture until he met Jesus. --Lyle Warfel, *Kemp Church Bulletin*

“I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that, and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed.”
--Patrick Henry

WHAT DOES PLANNED PARENTHOOD PLAN FOR YOUR CHILDREN? A former Planned Parenthood educator admitted, “The first lesson I learned in my sex education training is to assume that adolescents have done **anything and everything when it comes to sex and if they haven’t, they will.**” He also said a goal is to normalize all forms of sexual activity and throwing out any sense of traditional gender. And they wonder why we don’t want our tax money going to support them! They are bringing their trash into our schools, corrupting young minds. No wonder there is a reported increase in parents pulling their kids out of public schools, and putting them in private schools.

“THANKSGIVING IS NOT A DAY” will be today’s message, with Psalms 103:1-4, 21-22 as the reading.

PRAY FOR: Wayne Polk (minister at Shelbyville) is in St. John’s Hospital. *** Continue to remember little Ruby Bradd (Clinton; cancer). *** I am thankful to report that my kidney function has significantly improved. At my visit with the kidney doctor I was told that kidney efficiency that was at only 46% in September is now over 70%. He attributed it to my increasing my water intake. I would add: and to prayers answered.

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING