

**THE SOWER  
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FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Have you visited our website lately? ([www.arthurchurcoc.com](http://www.arthurchurcoc.com))

**47 YEARS' ANNIVERSARY!**

No, I'm not referring to a celebration of anyone's wedding anniversary. I'm not even alluding to **any** celebration. The killing of children—even unborn children—is no cause for celebration. If memory serves me correctly, a couple weeks ago was the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous Roe v Wade declaration of abortion as a "constitutional right." This day called for mourning, not for rejoicing over the loss of about 61 million innocent children who have since been subjected to a torturous death. It calls for weeping, not only for the children, but also for the nation. We have since become a nation that has lost its soul.

During these 47 years we have been shocked by the callous disregard for human life as we have experienced incidents of a number of shootings by crazed gunmen. Politicians seize this as an opportunity to attempt to disarm American citizens rather than to call our society to repentance. We cannot seek, as a nation, to insulate our children from Christian influences, while at the same

time subjecting them to violent movies and video games, and expect them to have respect for human life. They have grown up in a generation that has, for over four decades, shown them by example that life is expendable for profit and convenience. By taxation we have even forced all taxpayers to support Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. Companies are being forced into providing health insurance to cover abortion-inducing pills for lascivious employees. With all the political jargon on trying to cut back on our nation's trillion-dollar budget deficit, Even reducing the flow of funds to the baby-butcher mills calls for outcries in defense of women's rights. We may blame the politicians, but they represent us. Some of us put them into office, and we keep them there.

Lest I sound too negative, permit me to add a positive note. About seven years ago *Time Magazine* featured a cover story declaring, "40 years ago abortion-rights activists won an epic victory with Roe v Wade: They've been losing ever since." We have seen similar reports since then. Slowly, it seems, Americans

may be waking up to the reality that a baby is a human person regardless of environment—whether in or out of his/her mother’s womb. Planned Parenthood fights against requiring those seeking abortions to first see an ultrasound of the contents of their wombs, for they know they will see a little human being, not a lifeless blob of flesh. May our moral senses be awakened out of the darkness

of indifference and willingness to tolerate such evil. We have been 47 years wandering in the wilderness of rebellion against the Author of life. That’s 47 years too long!

Ron

*“I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots.” (Albert Einstein)*

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## THE OLD PATHS

“Thus Says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’ But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” (Jeremiah 6:16).

A good preaching text, often used! I like the ESV translation, “ancient paths.” Jeremiah’s paths were the ways of the Law of Moses.

The paths that some would call us to take as our model for today are not “old” enough. The ways of the 1940’s and ‘50’s are not our standard. Neither are the paths discovered and trod by the Stones and Campbells. We are not called to restore the 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration movement.

What we should restore is what those Christians of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were trying to restore: the church as Jesus and the apostles were calling it in the Scriptures to be.

Only paths as ancient as the New Testament are old enough to require that we walk therein.

--Cecil May, Jr., *The Central Message*, Central Church, Paducah, KY

# WHICH WAY?

The following caption was found written on a gravestone—

*“As I am now, you soon shall be.*

*So be content to follow me.”*

Then someone taped the following on that gravestone—

*“To follow you I’m not content*

*Until I know which way you went!”*

Our world is in dire need of godly examples. Hebrews 11 provides for us a commentary on the faith of Old Testament saints, from Abel (v. 4) to “the prophets” (v. 32). Of such, “the world was not worthy” (v. 38a). The world is stumbling in the dark, and many cry out, “Which way?” Our reply must be as the apostle Paul’s: “Be ye followers of me, even as I am also of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). Who are **you** following? We are foolish, indeed, if we choose to follow anyone who is not following Jesus Christ, who is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” He declared plainly, “No man cometh to the Father but by me” (John 14:6).  
—Ron

## Reasons I stopped attending sporting events—

Take some of the most common excuses for not going to church and use them to stop attending sporting events, and here’s what you get

- Every time I went, they asked me for money.
  - The people I had to sit by didn’t seem very friendly.
  - The seats were too hard and not comfortable at all.
  - The coach never came to call on me.
  - The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
  - I was sitting with some hypocrites—they came only to see what others were wearing.
  - Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
  - The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.
  - The games were scheduled for when I want to do other things.
  - My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
  - Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches anyhow.
  - I don’t want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.
- Selected

*“Can you imagine what air would cost if somebody else provided it? --God)*

**PRAYER LIST:** Ruby Bradd (Clinton; cancer); Wayne Polk (Shelbyville minister; hardening of leg-arteries); Gavin Hardin (Mary’s nephew now stationed in Kuwait); the many suffering for their faith in Christ, especially in Islamic and communist nations.