

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

A Fervent Prayer

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Helen Spicer, Chloe Larson, Doris Fikes, Danesa Nicholson, Peggy Beebe, Wayne Ezell will to travel to Seattle later in March for treatment so please say a special prayer for him and his family.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Thad Douthitt (deployed) , Steve and Abby, The Bettis and Nordstrom families will be traveling 2/13-2/27.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

CHECK THE SIGN UP FORMS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AND VOLUNTEER

Today's Scripture: "Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." **James 5:16 (KJV)**

Today's Proverb: "Yet when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting, and my prayer was genuine." **Psalms 35:13 (HCSB)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 68 Record: 96

CONTACT INFORMATION

ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell (907) 373-5583 ed@churchofchristwasilla.com

Hans Nicholson (907) 230-2969 hnichs@gmail.com

DEACONS:

Joe Murdock (907) 715-0089 montana2189@hotmail.com

Wayne Ezell (907) 414-0613 nytman09@yahoo.com

EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe (907) 841-9261 bill@churchofchristwasilla.com

February 25th, 2018 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ AT WASILLA

God's Plan of Salvation

HearRomans 10:17
 BelieveMark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
 Repent Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
 Confess Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
 Be Baptized Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
 Arise & Walk in Newness of LifeRomans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

—Romans 1:16 KJV

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:

Bible Classes: 10AM

AM Worship: 11AM

PM Worship: 6PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7PM

OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. 3PM-7PM

COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle

Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

A Fervent Prayer.

I was watching the Winter Olympics Monday evening and saw a short interview with the Ice Dancing couple from France. During one of their performances the female had what was called a “wardrobe malfunction”. It was not clear from the interview what this “malfunction” was bit from the reactions it was a serious situation for her. The interviewer asked her what she did to keep the costume together and how she could keep skating with the issue with her clothing. Her reply was “I prayed!”. They went on to win the silver medal.

I suspect that all of us have been in some similar situation, a place where we had few options and the situation was grave. It is then that our prayers are most authentic and genuine. And, I suspect, it is then when they are most fervent. David found himself in this situation several times throughout his life. King Saul tried to kill him, the Philistines wanted to kill him, even some of his own sons wanted to kill him from time to time. Because of these problems, several of the Psalms that he wrote deal with prayer. Read **Psalms 35** a prayer for victory over his enemies, or listen to him in **Psalms 4** as he states “*Answer me when I call, God, who vindicates me. You freed me from affliction; be gracious to me and hear my prayer.*” Then hear the concern in his voice as he writes “*LORD, hear a just cause; pay attention to my cry; listen to my prayer— from lips free of deceit. Let my vindication come from You, for You see what is right. You have tested my heart; You have examined me at night. You have tried me and found nothing evil; I have determined that my mouth will not sin.*” **Psalm 17:1-3 (HCSB)**

Job was also a man who prayed fervently to God throughout his ordeal engineered by Satan. We can not read Job without detecting the pain and concern in his prayers. Listen to him, “I have sewn sackcloth over my skin; I have buried my strength in the dust. My face has grown red with weeping, and darkness covers my eyes, although my hands are free from violence and my prayer is pure”. **Job 16:15-17 (HCSB)** And again, “I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted. You asked, “Who is this who conceals My counsel with ignorance?” Surely I spoke about things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, “Listen now, and I will speak. When I question you, you will inform Me.” I had heard rumors about You, but now my eyes have seen You. Therefore I take back my words and repent in dust and ashes”. **Job 42:2-6 (HCSB)** Can there be any doubt about the sincerity in his prayer, or the feelings with which he offered it?

Of course the best example of a fervent prayer is from Jesus Himself. In the garden, the night He was to be betrayed he prayed three times. We will probably never know what all He said to God that night, the Gospels only give us a summary. But we know that He prayed with such feeling and concern that his sweat fell like blood from an open wound. His prayers as we are told are simple but

By: Bill Beebe

Heart felt. He simply asked God to look for another way for mankind to be saved. His divinity allowed Him to understand why God had planned salvation to be presented to humanity this way. After all, He was with the Father when the salvation plan was made. But His humanity didn't want to endure the pain and suffering that He knew was soon to fall on Him. So we are told about these prayers as follows “Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He told the disciples, “*Sit here while I go over there and pray.*” Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, “*My soul is swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with Me.*” Going a little farther, He fell face down and prayed, “*My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.*” Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, “*So, couldn't you stay awake with Me one hour? Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*” Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, “*My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.*” **Matthew 26:36-42 (HCSB)**

I suspect that most of us pray rather casually today. We pray to God and ask His blessings for our food. We pray and thank Him for all that He has given us and the things that He has done for us. While I think that our prayers are serious and we mean to thank God for the things He has given to us and ask Him to continue to bless us, I suspect that we often do this without any real feeling. Our prayers get to be routine, especially when we pray and ask blessings for our food, or thank Him for our jobs or homes or families. I believe that He hears these and answers them, but James tells us that it is the “fervent prayer of a righteous man” that is most effective. The Hollman Christian Standard Version translates **James 5:16** as follows: “*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.*”

We are trying to evangelize the Mat-Su Valley and bring salvation to the lost souls that surround us. So let us all pray fervently that God helps us see the lost and find a way to convince them that they need Jesus. Let us all pray with urgency, knowing that judgement day is coming soon and that there are only two options for humanity for eternity. Heaven and an eternity with God and the Heavenly hosts, or Hell and an eternity separated from God and all that is good.

Pray with urgency!