

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

The Straight and The Few

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: The Reeds grandson, Caleb and his mother; Phyllis Maxwell, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe; Wayne Ezell is in Seattle for evaluation this weekend.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Thad Douthitt (deployed) , Steve and Abby, Hans and Danesa will be traveling outside the last of this month.

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

Fellowship: The Deckers' are hosting a gathering of the young adults at their home on March 24 at 6:00 PM.

Mens' Meeting: March 25 immediately following morning services, agenda topics should be given to Ed by March 18.

Today's Scripture: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" .**Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." **Ecclesiastes 5:2 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 79 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

March 18th, 2018 BULLETIN for the



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 Life.....Romans 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

The Straight Gate and The Few

If you were to take a survey on the streets of Anchorage, Palmer or Wasilla; I suspect that a majority of the people that you ask would say that they are going to heaven. In fact, I suspect that almost everyone would say that their mother is in heaven or is certainly headed there. Almost every person who has an "After Death Experience" describes it as a place of peace and love that is bright. I have only heard of one or two whose experience was contrary to this. So most of those Americans who believe in an afterlife likely think that they are on the road to heaven.

They believe this because at one time or another, usually when they were young, they accepted Jesus into their lives and were saved. And when a person is saved, they are always saved according to their preacher. These seem to be the majority doctrines of the "Christian" churches in our country today, and maybe throughout the world. Certainly it is a comforting doctrine. I opened my heart to Jesus when I was in church one day and He saved me and He has continued to save me and will continue to save me throughout my life regardless of how I live. An elder in the church of Christ in Melbourne, AR who was raised a Baptist told me once that this is a teenage boy's idea doctrine.

Think about it, no one really needs to know that you accepted Jesus, you did it by raising your hand in the pew and reciting the sinners prayer. And you can go ahead and do all those things that the world claims to be typical of young men and women today without fear of being eternally lost. So while living a life that does not conform to the Biblical pattern, you can honestly say that you believe that you are saved. The question is, though, were you really saved and are you continually saved regardless of the life that you live?

These statements are contrary to the clear teachings in the New Testament. No where in the Bible can one find scriptures that agree with these teachings. The idea of a "Sinner's Prayer" is alien to the Holy Bible, as is the idea of "Once Saved Always Saved". The Bible teaches that a person must hear (Romans 10:17), believe (Mark 16:16), repent (Acts 2:38), confess (Matthew 10:32-33), and be baptized (Acts 22:16). Then it teaches that a person must walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). These things are necessary to become and remain a Christian.

I suspect that few people reading this today will object to these conclusions. After all, the Bible is clear. Hearing results in faith, a saving faith demands action, action results in repentance, repentance leads to baptism, and baptism leads to a new life in Jesus. This new life causes me to continually adjust my behavior so that it matches that taught in the Bible. So...you can feel good about yourself and know that you are a part of the few on the straight road. I do believe that one can know that they are saved, after all the Apostle Paul said

By: Bill Beebe

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." **2 Timothy 4:6-8 (KJV)** He didn't say "I think that there is a crown laid up for me." Nor did he say "I hope that there is a crown laid up for me." He said "there is laid up for me a crown".

However, I wonder if we truly understand what it means to walk in newness of life, what exactly is a Christians life supposed to be anyway? We can say, well...I have never committed adultery or murder, I don't steal or lie and I control my tongue (for the most part anyway). And I attend church services regularly, so I must be on that straight road. All of these are good and should be a part of Christian life, but when Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment, He didn't say don't murder, or don't steal or commit fornication. What He said was to love the Lord our God and the second is like it to love our neighbors (Mark 12:28-31). So before you get too carried away with the thought that you are part of the few on the straight road, consider the following:

"I was hungry and you sent me to the government for help, I was a stranger and you ignored me as you drove to the church building for worship, I was naked and you talked with your brothers and sisters about my lack of morals, I was sick and you called me a time or two on the phone, I was in prison and you said that is where I deserve to be and never thought about me again. Then you went to worship God. But I was still hungry, I was still lonely without a family to help me, I was still naked and cold and wet, I was still sick and depressed and I was still in prison wondering if any Christian really cared about me."

To be one of the few on the straight road, our love for God will demand that we act. This is what James teaches us. Our love for our neighbors will demand that we do those things that will mitigate their needs. This is what Jesus was teaching in Mark. Claiming to be a Christian while sitting back and hoping someone else will do what is needed is not what Christianity is about. It is about becoming personally involved, taking personal action when presented with the opportunity, and truly loving God, each other and ALL or neighbors.

Are you one of the few on the straight road, or are you walking along with the majority hoping that someone else will feed, clothe, visit and teach?