

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

**The sun shines
on the
good and the evil.**

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Danesa injured her knee last week, Hans that fishing will improve, Abby is continuing with PT and Steve had a procedure on his back this week. Wayne and Cathy Ezell, Lois MacAlvain (Gale Larson’s mother) needs prayers for recovery from a stroke, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe, Hans, for his safety and that fishing season will improve.

Prayers Answered: Ben made a safe trip outside.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Hans is in Dillingham., but should return soon. Jacob Smith is traveling until the end of August.

Door Knocking: Please consider volunteering for this effort. We intend to begin this the last week or so of August.

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

Today’s Scripture: “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. “ **Matthew 5:45 (KJV)**

Today’s Wisdom: “To cause it to rain on the earth, *where* no man is; on the wilderness, wherein *there is* no man;” **Job 38:26 (KJV)**

New Publication: The first edition of “Family Ties” is available.

Attendance Last Sunday: 57 Record: 96

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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:

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Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

God's Blessings On The Unrighteous

One thing that is sometimes difficult for Christians to understand is why God seems to bless the unrighteous and sinners with so much. We can look all around us and see people who never give God a second thought, or even a first thought for that matter, who are living a very blessed life. Materially they are doing very well. They have large and fancy homes, the newest vehicles, the best toys, and they just continue getting more and more material blessings. On the other hand, we see Christians who can barely survive. They have difficulty paying the few bills that they have, they drive old, and sometimes worn out vehicles, they live in places where a lot of people would never even set foot in. Materially, they are severely lacking. We also see people who are not at all interested in God living a healthy and active life when we know Christians who can barely cope with the pain and disabilities that they have. And a verse in the song "Farther Along" comes to mind; "Then do we wonder why others prosper living so wicked year after year". It is enough, sometimes to make people wonder why God is allowing His children to suffer so much while the unrighteous live such a carefree and blessed life.

There are several things we should consider when faced with this seeming disparity in material blessings. First is that God sends His material blessings on both the righteous and unrighteous alike. Jesus Himself told us that this is the case, read His words with me; *"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."* **Matthew 5:45 (KJV)**. And even Job states something similar when he said *"Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?"* **Job 38:25-27 (KJV)**

And second, Jesus promised us that our walk as Christians would be filled with difficulties. After all He left Heaven and lived a life as a transient preacher without even a place to lay His head to bring us salvation (Matthew 8:18-22). When He did tell us that we would be blessed materially, He added that we would face persecutions, consider this statement *"And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first."* **Mark 10:29-31 (KJV)**

By: Bill Beebe

So, from just these few passages you can see that there will be those in the world that will enjoy the material blessings of God and that there will be Christians that suffer. And, in fact we have examples of this in the Bible. Think about Saul of Tarsus. Before he met Jesus near Damascus, he would be considered to be a successful young Jewish man. He had some of the best, if not the very best, education available to Jewish men at that time, He had position and power and didn't seem to lack for anything. He was enjoying the material blessings of God. However when he became a Christian, his situation changed almost immediately. He was considered a traitor by the Jews and a murderer by the Christians. Christians avoided him like the plague early in his walk and the Jews tried to kill him. He went from enjoying many material blessings to being a shunned person by both Jews and Christians. Of course, after a while he became a noted Christian and enjoyed the love that we have for one another, but early on it was not that way. Read his own words in 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 to see what his life as a Christian was like.

In the same way, Peter, Andrew and James and John were successful fishermen who traded their livelihood and businesses for the Christian life. In doing so, they were threatened, beaten, thrown in prison, and all but John finally martyred for Jesus. And John suffered exile and boiling in oil before dying a natural death.

So...how do we reconcile Mark 10 and Jesus promises of receiving a hundred times what we have given up in this life for Him? It is simple really. When we become a Christian we have a new family here on earth. All the older women are my mothers, all the older men are my fathers, all the men and women are my brothers and sisters, all the children are mine as well. And houses and land? Which true Christian wouldn't share their home with another Christian or wouldn't allow a fellow Christian to hunt or fish on their land? But in this same promise, He also promised us persecutions. So being a Christian doesn't mean that we will have a blessed earthly life, in fact it may be just the opposite like our brothers and sisters in the first century. But being a Christian doesn't necessarily mean that we will not have a blessed material life either

A person shouldn't look at their material lives and from that alone decide that they are right with God. While many Christians have had great material blessings through the years, their Christianity wasn't determined by these blessings alone. Becoming a Christian requires that we hear the gospel and act on what we hear. That includes believing that Jesus is God's son, repenting from our sins, confessing Him before men, being baptized by immersion for the remission of our sins, and continually growing as a Christian.