

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Help the weak!

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Danesa injured her knee, Abby is scheduled for surgical consultation. Wayne and Cathy Ezell, Lois MacAlvain needs prayers for recovery from a stroke, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe will have knee surgery this month, Kenny, that his situation improves soon. Helen Spicer has bronchitis.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Hans is back in Dillingham. Danesa, Jennifer and kids are outside attending a wedding.

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

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

Today's Scripture: "For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation." **Galatians 2:12-13 (KJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked." **Psalms 82:4 (NASB77)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 67 Record: 96

CONTACT INFORMATION

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August 12th, 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:

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Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

How to Destroy A New Christian

Have you ever noticed that when a person is first baptized they are usually on fire for the Lord. They want to study with everyone in the church, they want to be involved with all the things that the congregation has going on, and if nothing is really happening they talk constantly with others to try to get things going. Then within a few years their enthusiasm has often cooled to the point that it is difficult to get them to attend services regularly? And we wonder, what happened?

There are usually several things that causes this loss of interest in doing the work of the Lord. And I believe that they can be categorized as follows:

1. The congregation as a whole is dying and decaying from within. The lack of interest in working with a new born Christian may be the initial indicators of a congregation that is on the way down. Jesus dealt with a congregation similar to this in the Revelation to John. Consider this: *“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.” Revelation 3:1 (KJV)* . The church in Sardis had a reputation for being a living and active congregation, but Jesus said that they were dead. We do not know what caused Jesus to say this, however He also told them to *“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” Revelation 3:2 (KJV)* . Evidentially they had given up on being active, perhaps they had ceased to be evangelistic, perhaps they had ceased to be active. But what we do know is that they were dying and Jesus wanted them to return to the way that they were. When a new Christian is made in a congregation that is dying, their interest and enthusiasm will soon match that of the rest of the congregation, and they will begin to die before they can even start to grow.
2. Failure to follow fully the great commission as found in Matthew 28. Read that now; *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)*. Notice, we are to teach all nations, baptize them then teach them to observe all things that Jesus commanded. All too often, though we are very active in teaching the Gospel and baptizing people, but then we kind of throw them out into the world to sink or swim on their own. It is critical that we follow the full commission that Jesus gave us and equip our new brothers and sisters with the tools that they need to remain faithful and active in the Lord once they are baptized. Not doing this usually results in failure. They will either become inactive members or quit altogether.

By: Bill Beebe

3. Discouraging their enthusiasm. Last week the article in this bulletin dealt with discouragement. This is perhaps the greatest reason that new Christians become inactive and lose their enthusiasm. Those of us who have been Christians for a period of time often throw cold water on the new Christians by telling them things like; “slow down”, or “lets wait and see how that will work out before we get fully into it”, or even worse “you are just a new Christian, wait until you know more”. And the result is that a Christian willing and anxious to work will soon loose their interest in either the church or evangelism altogether.

Considering these thoughts, lets look at ways to improve ourselves so that when we do have new converts they will live an active and healthy Christian life. To do this we must be active ourselves.

1. There are several things that need to be done in our congregation, and unfortunately they are usually done by the same people over and over again. There are sign up sheets on the board for the common things that need to be done as well as our door knocking campaign coming up soon. Look and see what you can do and become active yourselves. Give the new converts a good example of what a living congregation looks like and we will avoid the condemnation that Jesus gave the church in Sardis.
2. The elders have discussed starting an new converts class and we will do this when we have enough people to participate. Look for it and take it yourselves if you haven't had the opportunity to do so and are reasonably young in the faith.
3. And when we do have new converts, lets encourage them instead of discouraging them. We can do this by working with them to set up Bible studies with their friends and family. Getting them to go out visiting and door knocking with us. And by becoming active examples of living Christianity ourselves.

As we conduct our door knocking campaign this may become vitally important. It would be a real tragedy if when we convert someone from this effort, we allow them to slip back into the world or to become an inactive and dying Christian.

