

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Favorites

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** Danesa injured her knee, Wayne and Cathy Ezell, Lois MacAlvain needs prayers for recovery from a stroke, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe, Kenny, that his situation improves soon. Helen Spicer has bronchitis.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers,

**Door Knocking:** Please consider volunteering for this effort. We intend to begin our Outreach 2018 on Thursday, August 23. Everyone who can participate meet at the building at 3:00 PM.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "My brothers, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ." **James 2:1 (HCSB)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "Remember me, O LORD, with the favour *that thou bearest unto* thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance." **Psalms 106:4-5 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 75      Record: 96

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell (907) 373-5583 [ed@churchofchristwasilla.com](mailto:ed@churchofchristwasilla.com)

Hans Nicholson (907) 230-2969 [hnichs@gmail.com](mailto:hnichs@gmail.com)

### DEACONS:

Joe Murdock (907) 715-0089 [montana2189@hotmail.com](mailto:montana2189@hotmail.com)

Wayne Ezell (907) 414-0613 [nytman09@yahoo.com](mailto:nytman09@yahoo.com)

Phillip Kelly (907) 632-1118 [affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com](mailto:affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com)

### EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe (907) 841-9261 [bill@churchofchristwasilla.com](mailto:bill@churchofchristwasilla.com)

August 19th, 2018 BULLETIN for the



## God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear .....Romans 10:17
- Believe .....Mark 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](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## Favorites

Thinking back through our lives, regardless of how old we are it is impossible not to think about those things that were favorites to us. Most of us had a favorite book, or movie. We had favorite ice cream flavors and a favorite place to eat out. We usually had a favorite place to visit and a favorite vacation spot. Our friends were divided into those who were our favorites, those with whom we really enjoyed spending time with and those who were just friends and acquaintances. When we were dating, we had a favorite boyfriend or girlfriend. That one person that we really liked a lot, often that person became our spouse. Humans have favorites, and in most situations that is ok.

However, when we bring this attitude into the church, we are breaking Gods law and sitting ourselves up for problems. James tells us in **James 2:1-4 (KJV)** *“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?”* The Holy Spirit, through the pen of James specifically tells us not to allow favoritism to creep into the church. When it does, what usually happens is that the church fractures into small groups, and from that comes mistrust and then open divisions.

So, understanding that humans have a tendency to have favorites in everything from what we eat, to where we go, to the friends we have; how do we prevent this from creeping into the church and causing the problems associated with it? There are a few things we should all think about along these lines.

First, the warning that James gave us in James 2 is one that we must take to heart. We cannot afford to judge a person based on their appearances, their wealth or lack thereof, their race, their social status or anything else. Doing so is sin! *“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” James 2:8-9 (KJV)* It is absolutely critical that we understand that Jesus died for all humanity, not just a certain few of us who look the same, have the same social status, or have the same wants, needs and desires! If Jesus gave himself for the poorest of the poor, how is it that we believe that we can refuse to associate with them. If he gave His life for the rich and powerful, what right do we have to decide that they are beyond our status and therefore out of reach of the Gospel? It is our duty as Christians to treat each person, regardless of race, color, status, wealth, health or anything else as either lost and in need of the Gospel or saved and a brother or sister

## By: Bill Beebe

in Christ deserving of our full love.

Second, along the lines of James 2, we must avoid at all costs the tendency to segregate ourselves into groups within the congregation. This means that we need to guard against associating with the same small number of folks over a long term. I once preached in a small church in south Arkansas where this had gone to the point that the people sitting on the left side of the building would barely speak to those that sat on the right side. This started from a difference of opinion that led to the development of two cliques and over the years developed into a full blown chasm within the congregation. Paul warned about this in **1 Corinthians 1:10-15 (KJV)**, listen to his warning *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.”* To perfectly join ourselves together, we must not allow the development of cliques or groups within our congregation. We must love everyone equally, we must treat all equally! Read the prayer of Jesus recorded in John 17. When you read that prayer, you cannot mistake the fact that He wants us to be one, united in love with a singular purpose; to save the lost. And we cannot do that if we are a congregation of cliques!

So...how do we avoid falling prey to this? It is easy really, we need to make sure that we associate with everyone in the congregation. We need to guard against visiting with the same people all the time, We need to guard against sitting with the same people all the time. We need to resist the temptations to ask only a select few to visit in our homes or to eat with us. Working with everyone in the congregation instead just the same few over and over again will result in a vibrant and growing church. And that will result in more and more people going to heaven with us!

*That they be one, even as we are one,*

John 17:22