

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Courage!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** Viki Watson (Danesa's sister-in-law), Helen Spicer, Anthony Johnson (Carla's brother), Robert Webster (Peggy's nephew), Wayne and Cathy Ezell, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe, Abby and Steve, and Nate.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Beverly is at Cold Bay for a month, Joe will join her there on this next rotation home. Alice Stone is traveling to NYC for training and will be gone for five weeks. Tina Crawford is traveling for the next ten days.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus." **Mark 15:43 (NKJV)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD. **Psalms 31:23-24 (KJV)**

**Check the Website:** It contains more detail and additional news and photos.

**Attendance Last Sunday: 67/54 Record: 96**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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September 16th, 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

## Courage!

Most of us know, or know of, someone that we consider courageous. It may be that they are able to say what is needed to be said when it is needed. It may be that they take action when most people don't. One of the most courageous person that I have heard of is Audie Murphy. Those of you that are younger probably never heard of him.

His father abandoned the family and his mother died when he was a teenager in Texas. He left school to work as a cotton picker and at other odd jobs to provide for his brothers and sisters. When World War II started, he and his sister falsified his documents to hide his age and tried to join the military. Both the Marines and Navy rejected him, but the Army didn't. Audie went on to be one of the most decorated combat soldiers of World War II, being awarded every medal for heroism that the Army had and being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. When the war ended he began an acting career and appeared mostly in westerns. Later in life, he had financial problems but turned down offers to appear in commercials for alcoholic beverages and tobacco products because he thought that it would set bad example. He was certainly a person of courage. And I looked up to him when I was a young person.

However, there are other people who demonstrate genuine courage that we, as Christians, should study and try to emulate. One of these is Paul the Apostle. His story begins in Acts 7:58 when he is watching the cloaks of those who were stoning Stephen. Luke tells us that he continued to persecute the church until he met Jesus near Damascus (Acts 8:3, Acts 9:1-17). After his conversion, he began to preach and teach Jesus and his life changed from being a respected student of Gamaliel and a potential member of the Sanhedrin to a person who was beaten, stoned, threatened, ship wrecked, left for dead and finally beheaded. His ability to preach Jesus Christ in very adverse situations is well documented in the New Testament. He preached even when he was threatened, he continued to preach right up to the time he was beheaded. If we want to understand courage, a study of Paul and his life will help.

Another person described in the New Testament that will give us a study in courage is Peter. He begins by being one to the twelve men chosen directly by Jesus Himself. Peter was a fisherman, along with

By: Bill Beebe

his brother Andrew and his partners James and John. Peter and Andrew were selected by Jesus to be "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Peter demonstrated courage when he stepped out of the boat and started to walk toward Jesus on the water. However his faith and courage failed him when he looked around at the stormy water. Peter, along with James and John witnessed the transfiguration, Later, he tried to defend Jesus by taking a sword cut at Malchus, the servant of the High Priest. Then not too much later he denied Jesus three times. Peter repented of this sin and became the person who Jesus knew him to be. He preached at Pentecost when the church was started, he preached in Caesarea to Cornelius and his house admitting Gentiles into the church. After which he was forced to defend this to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Peter was arrested and jailed, persecuted and finally crucified upside down in Rome. Like Paul, his courage is something that we should study today.

Paul and Peter weren't the only courageous Christians. There were a lot of courageous people that we don't even know their names. Those Christians who were burned for torch light in Rome by Nero never denounced Jesus nor their religion. Those who were killed in the arena for the entertainment of Roman citizens didn't take the easy way out and denounce their faith. And today there are Christians in parts of the world who are under real and immediate threat for their faith. These are all people of courage.

We can learn a lot of things from these people. Things that can help us be courageous in spreading the gospel today. Paul was a person headed for great things as a Jew. He gave all that up to follow Jesus. Peter had a successful business along with his brother and partners. He gave that up to follow Jesus (Matthew 19:27). But they both had a past. Paul persecuted the church, Peter denied Jesus. Those human torches were just regular people like you and me. But they all recognized the value of Christianity and wouldn't compromise their faith, even to save their lives.

So the question to all of us today is...how much do you value Jesus and the gospel? Most of us think that we wouldn't deny Jesus even if we were to be physically persecuted. We believe that we would stand firm like our brothers and sisters in the first century church. But think about this, do you value your faith enough to take two or three hours this Saturday to knock doors? Do you value it enough to sign up to clean the building, mow the yard or clear snow this winter, or to be greeters on Sunday morning and evening? Just exactly how courageous are you when it comes to the gospel? Think about these things and then take a stand, be courageous for the Lord!