

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Hope

OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** Kenny Dearing and his family, Viki Watson (Danesa’s sister-in-law), Helen Spicer, Jennifer Morigeau and her sister, Desiree are better but still need prayers, Anthony Johnson (Carla’s brother), Wayne and Cathy Ezell, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe, Abby and Steve, and Nate.

**Prayers Answered:** The Murdock's returned to us safely from their vacation. Our hunters all returned safely from their hunts.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Alice Stone is traveling to NYC for training and will be gone for a few more weeks. Ed and Phyliss are traveling outside.

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

**Today’s Scripture:** “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” **1 Corinthians 13:13 (KJV)**

**Today’s Wisdom:** “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.” **Psalms 31:24 (KJV)**

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

**Attendance Last Sunday: 88/45    Record: 96**

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September 30th, 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:

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Wasilla, AK 99654

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Visit our website at:

[www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## Hope

We hope for a lot of things. When we are young we hope to get a particular thing for our birthday or Christmas. As we age, we hope to take a Moose for our years meat, or we hope to be able to buy a new car or a new house within a year or so.

This is the way that we use the word "hope" in our daily conversations. And we begin to use it that way in our religious conversations and in our own Christian lives as well. But is this really the "hope" that is taught in the Bible? The "hope" that we most often use is no more than a wish. Something that we want but are not sure that it will happen, or maybe even relatively sure that it will not happen.

The "hope" as used in the Bible means "to anticipate, usually with pleasure", "expectation, abstract or concrete", or "confidence". I have heard it defined as "a strong expectation of something". However, it is clear that "hope" as used by the Holy Spirit in the Bible is something more than the wishfulness that we apply to it today.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul told us that we are saved by hope. *"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."* **Romans 8:24-25 (KJV)** How does this correlate with 1 Peter 3:21 that tells us baptism saves us? Our sins are washed away at baptism (Acts 22:16) and we are added to the church (Acts 2:41), so we are saved at that point. However, it is the hope of salvation that keeps us striving in the Christian life. It is that hope that causes us to grow as Peter instructed (2 Peter 1:5-8)

In Romans 8 Paul tells us that it is hope, i.e. an anticipation or expectation that saves us. For by hope we will continue in the Christian life. It is that hope that leads us to patience allowing us to continue when things are difficult. It is when we begin to wish for salvation that we become impatient and then begin to look elsewhere for our salvation. Paul continues to tell us that we do not hope for that which we see, since our salvation will not be seen until we die (or judgement day) we should continue to hope for it. It is this hope, this strong expectation with pleasure, this confidence in our salvation that keeps us working as Christians. Without this hope, we would likely give up.

## By: Bill Beebe

In fact many have given up their quest for salvation and turned back to the life that they can see on a daily basis. So we can truly understand Paul's meaning here. It is hope, a strong desire for salvation, an expectation that we will see Jesus returning from Heaven, that causes us to continue living the Christian life and that will result in our salvation.

But we can turn away from this hope. Paul warns us of this, *"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister"* **Colossians 1:23 (KJV)** Paul here states; "If ye continue..." and "be not moved away from the hope". It is important for us to continue to hope for salvation. We should never "wish" for salvation, because that is not what we are instructed to do. Wishing for salvation is simply not good enough. We need to anticipate it with pleasure, we need to concretely expect it, we need to have confidence in it. We shouldn't be moved away from the hope of salvation either. We can be moved away by listening to those who tell us that it has been 2,000 years and Jesus hasn't come back yet so he will never return. We can be moved away by our own desires and wishes, by turning more toward the world and away from Christ. When we do, we start working less and less for God and more and more for the world.

Paul also said *"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."* **1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 (KJV)** Don't be asleep, don't be drunken but watch and put on the armor of God and the hope of salvation.

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 Paul says that faith, hope and charity will abide. How strong is your hope? Is it that strong and concrete expectation of salvation? Is it that overriding anticipation with pleasure, or is it nothing stronger than a wish? Consider and make changes if necessary.