

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Where is your brother?

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray** Arnold Wilson. Tiffany, Beverly's sister needs prayers. Wayne Ezell. Logan's grandfather. Linda Cline, and Peggy Beebe.

**Prayers Answered:** Abby is recovering well, but still needs prayers. Nate is almost completely recovered from his injury. Phillip and Jennifer Kelly returned to us safely.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers,

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

**Today's Scripture:** "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?" **Genesis 4:9 (KJV)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; <sup>7</sup> None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" **Psalms 49:6-7 (KJV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 81/64 Record: 101**

*For more detail on the sick and travelers, please go to the web site.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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December 23rd, 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: 5PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7PM

### OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

### COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

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

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## Where Is Your Brother?

Shortly after Adam and Eve had sinned and God expelled them from the garden of Eden, they had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a farmer and Abel a shepherd. When they sacrificed to God, Abel brought the firstborn of his flock and Abel brought fruit of the ground for offerings. Moses, records this in **Genesis 4:3-5 (KJV)** *“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”* The result, we all know from our bible studies, was that Cain killed Abel. After the murder, the following dialog occurred between God and Cain: *“And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?”* **Genesis 4:9 (KJV)**. God, of course, knew exactly what had happened to Abel and told Cain so.

But there is another way this question may be asked of each of us one day. Jesus tells us to go into all the world and make disciples. Read his words as recorded by Matthew; *“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)** While this is absolutely clear, it isn't the only way that Jesus tells us that we ought to make disciples. In **Luke 13:6-9 (KJV)**, He tells us *“He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. <sup>7</sup> Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? <sup>8</sup> And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: <sup>9</sup> And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.”* We see the Christians in the first century doing this very thing. Peter did it when he preached in Jerusalem on Pentecost in 334 AD (Acts 2:37-41). Phillip did it when he went to Samaria and preached there then when he met the Ethiopian official (Acts 8).

However, today we too often don't fully appreciate the urgency, nor the personal responsibility given to each of us, in these passages. Consider the second example given above. The vineyard owner expects each fig tree to produce fruit. That this fruit is more figs is unmistakable. His instructions to his vineyard manager is to allow the tree one more year and if it doesn't produce fruit then, it is to be removed from the vineyard. What these passages teach is that each of us have a responsibility to bear fruit. This idea of fruit has been

By: Bill Beebe

discussed at length, some think it means only the fruits of the spirit that are mentioned in **Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)** where Paul tells us *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* There is not doubt that these are the fruit of the spirit and that we need to develop those attributes in our selves. But Paul also makes the following statement; *“Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.”* **Romans 1:13 (KJV)** In this verse it is absolutely clear that the fruit that Paul is speaking about is Christians. So, are you bearing fruit?

We have a lot of excuses for not making new disciples. Some of these are:

- I am just can't do personal work!
- I don't know how to teach a private Bible class.
- I want to wait until I learn more.
- I just don't have the time.
- We hire an evangelist or preacher to do that.

Of course there are other excuses that we use. My favorite one was that I was just too competitive and wanted to win rather than teach. The problem is that these are all just excuses for not obeying Jesus' command to make disciples. But one day, we may be asked “Where is your brother?” or “Where is your sister?” Where is the fruit that you should have developed? Where are the disciples that you had the opportunity to make? Evangelism is one thing that we all can do. We all may not be able to preach, most of us will not be able to serve as an Elder or Deacon. Many of us will not make good teachers. But we all can be evangelists. We can sow the seed, we can water. The problem is that we just don't want to.

So when judgement day comes and we stand before Jesus, will we be able to show Him the fruit we bare? Will we be able to say, “Here is my brother, here is my sister!” Or will we stand there empty handed, with our excuses ready.