

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Less Religious, More Spiritual?

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Wayne Ezell, Peggy Beebe.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Carla and the kids are outside, returning Feb 11. Chris and Christine are traveling.

Family Activities: Breakfast and Young Men's Training February 9 at 8:00 AM. Men's Coffee and Bible Study at Eds February 8 at 8:00 AM.

Don't forget the Women's Class every other Saturday, next is scheduled for February 16. VBS is quickly approaching, check with Joe or Tom to see how you can participate and assist with this. We will also schedule a door knocking campaign a week or two earlier to advertise our VBS and try to set up Bible Studies.

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

Today's Scripture: "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." **1 Corinthians 2:13 (KJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him" **Psalms 4:3 (KJV)**.

Attendance Last Sunday: 90/51 Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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February 3rd, 2019 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ AT WASILLA

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: 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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Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Less Religious but more Spiritual

I had started to write this weeks article on peace and joy. But in doing research, I ran across an article on the internet titled *"Americans may be getting less religious, but feelings of spirituality are on the rise."* In that article the authors quote a statement that people are using today "spiritual but not religious" and note that in their personal surveys the U.S. public is becoming less religious but more spiritual.

They contend that in recent years, the standard measurements of how religious a person is have shown that religion is less and less important to the average American. The time Americans spend in religious service, attendance at organized worship and in prayer have all dropped. However, at the same time the amount of people across a wide range of religious identities claim to feel a deep sense of spiritual peace and well-being. In addition, these people state that they have a deep sense of wonder about the universe. The authors go on to state *"The drop in religiosity in the U.S. has been limited to religious 'nones' (that is, those who describe themselves as atheists or agnostics and those who say they have no particular religion). The growth of the unaffiliated population and their decreasing religiosity have been the main factors behind the emergence of a less religious public overall. But, interestingly, the rise in spirituality has been happening among both highly religious people and the religiously unaffiliated."* They go on to quote the following statistics: *"For instance, among U.S. Christians, there has been an increase of 7 percentage points between 2007 and 2014 in the share who say they feel a deep sense of wonder about the universe at least weekly (from 38% to 45%). And there has been a similar rise in the share of religious 'nones' who say the same (from 39% to 47%) – not to mention a 17-point jump among self-described atheists."*

I found this to be extremely interesting. The Apostle Paul tells us about peace and where it really comes from. Listen to him, *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* **Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV)**. Paul tells us that it is not "wonder at the universe" that brings peace, but that it comes through Jesus. We often just look at verse 7, but it is critical that we understand verse 6 as well as verses 8 and 9. In verse 6, Paul tells us to "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your request be made known to God". So for us to have peace, we don't need to wonder at the universe and all its majesty, but we do need to tell God about all our concerns and let Him know all our requests.

Then Paul continues by saying *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things*

By: Bill Beebe

are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." **Philippians 4:8-9 (KJV)**. So to really have peace, we should concentrate on things that are lovely, of a good report, virtuous, praise worthy, and replicate in our lives the life we see Paul living through his letters. It is through all these that the "God of peace" will be with us and we can have a true peace.

We can not have true peace by being less religious and more spiritual. We can not achieve peace by having feelings of "wonder about the universe" either. Our feelings are not a reliable sign of acceptance by God, nor are they something that we can depend on to give us peace. Paul stated that he was "zealous toward God" even while he was persecuting Christians (Acts 22:3-4). He also said that he had served God with a pure conscience from his forefathers (2 Timothy 1:3). Then he told the Christians at Philippi *"Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."* **Philippians 3:4-6 (KJV)**. So his feelings told him that he was doing what God wanted even when murdering Christians. And that was because he trusted in the flesh through that time and not in God. Paul also told us that *"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."* **Romans 7:14-20 (KJV)**. Paul knew what he wanted to do, but being human he could not always do it. His feelings, and the desires of the flesh, were no reliable guide to being acceptable to God.

The origin of the word "religion" is from Latin and meant to fasten or to bind. In its original meaning it meant to bind again to God. If we are less "religious" we are less bound to God. How then can we be more spiritual and less religious and have any kind of peace? Certainly not by an increased "wonder about the universe". True peace will only come through dependence on God. Read Romans and then Philippians 4:4-9.