

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Knit Together In Love

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Ben and Carla's grand-son is in the hospital in Nashville, TN, Calla Morigeau has the flu. Wayne Ezell, Herb and Jean, Charles Nordstrom had surgery last week, Danesa, and Peggy Beebe

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

Elder: Paul Stone has expressed his desire to serve as an Elder. Please contact Ed or Hans with any comments you have concerning this. If there are no major objections, he will be appointed as an elder on Sunday, February 24, 2019.

Men's Business Meeting: There will be a men's business meeting March 3. Agenda items are due into Ed by February 24.

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

Today's Scripture: "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ," **Colossians 2:2 (NKJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "I will love You, O LORD, my strength." **Psalms 18:1 (NKJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 65/27 Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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February 17th, 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 LifeRomans 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

Knit Together In Love

A country music group, "The Judds", a mother and daughter duo published a record several years ago with the verse "Love and only love can unite the tribes of men". I still enjoy listening to that song, primarily because of that verse. Love is that singular emotion that has the capabilities to bridge differences between humanity and bring us closer to a world where there is universal peace. However, how to achieve that type of love has escaped us since God first breathed life into Adam.

A love that can unite all humanity will not be achieved in this world, because Satan is active and he sows discontent and mistrust throughout humanity. His objective is to prevent humans from loving each other and God. His strategy is to cause us to distrust one another and God. His tactics are to sow discontent, hatred, and mistrust among the nations of men and to sow doubt in the existence of God in our minds. And he has been reasonably successful in doing this. He causes nations to mistrust other nations and therefore raises the chances of war and the destruction of humanity that that causes. He causes us to notice such minor things as skin color, accents, and cultural differences and he then encourages them to grow into full mistrust and then hatred. He plants the idea that God doesn't exist into the minds of some men, who then teach that to others in our universities and colleges. And the circle of discontent, mistrust and hatred grows and grows. And when there seems to be even the glimmer of hope in a better more loving world, Satan sows discord so that there is no chance of a better world being achieved.

However God, in His infinite wisdom and eternal love, has created a place where love for one another and Him can and does grow. It is a place where the color of ones skin is not important at all and that there is true love between the races. It is a place where people will not ridicule me for my accent. It is a place people understand that my intelligence is not any less than anyone else because the words that I use are not like theirs. It is a place where men and women are valued equally, although they have different expectations and responsibilities. It is a place where love really has united the tribes of men. That place is, of course, the church of Christ.

When Jesus was living and teaching, the ruling elite of Israel constantly tested Him trying to destroy His relationship with the general population of that day. In one case, a lawyer asked Him what the greatest commandment was. This exchange is recorded in **Matthew 22:34-40 (NKJV)** and is as follows: "But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two command-

By: Bill Beebe

ments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Those of us who are in the church today need to take this to heart. Our primary command is to love God, but we have the secondary command to love each other. They cannot be separated. John made this crystal clear when he wrote "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." **1 John 4:20-21 (NKJV)**. Because of this I know that I cannot love God if I have no love for others because of the color of their skin or the ideas that they have about how our political system ought to work. I can not love God if I do not love those who disagree with me. I cannot love God if I have no love for those who are still caught up in sin, regardless of what sin it is. Our love for God will make us do everything within our power to cause them to turn away from their sinful life and turn to God, to leave a life or worldly living and begin to live for Christ. Our love for them will cause us to tell them the truth about their relationship, or lack thereof, with God. And it will make us do everything that is within our power to teach them about God's love for all of us and His plan to save us. It will cause us to tell them about Jesus and His willingness to leave Heaven to execute the saving plan of God, the Father. A plan that caused Him to take on the form of a man, to live, to be tempted like we all are, to resist Satan completely, to be tortured horribly, to die an excruciating death, to rise again and finally ascend back into Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God as our advocate today. And this love will cause us to point out error where it exist, and teach truth and truth only.

The church is the one place where humanity can meet true love. A love that has the power to bridge the gap between races, between sexes, between those who speak various languages, between those who speak with strong accents, between those who have different political ideas, and any other thing that Satan uses to separate us. It is truly the place where we can be "knit together in love". However, we will have to work to achieve this brotherly love because Satan will do everything in his power to prevent us from experiencing it. We will, one day, know what it is to live with true love. When we get to Heaven there will only be love there. So while we need to do everything within our power here to have a church where love abounds, we will stumble. But when we do, we have been told how to behave. **Mark 11:25 (NKJV)** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." It is our willingness to forgive that can allow us to experience true love in the church. And it is God's love for us that allows Him to forgive us when we obey. Let us strive to be "knit together in love" here, today.