

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Paradox

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Alice Stone is being referred to UW Cancer Research Center for assessment, please pray for her! Mia, Danesa's niece has been released from the hospital and is at home but still needs our prayers. Shila, Danesa's sister was released from the hospital on Thursday July 18, 2019 and is doing better. Continue to pray for her and her husband, George. Thad Douthitt is being deployed pray for his safety. Charles and Neil Kelly needs our prayers.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Hans is in Dillingham, pray for his safety and for a successful season. Paul and Alice are in Seward, he is preaching their today. Eddie and Susan are traveling.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not". **John 1:5 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** <sup>20</sup> "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, **Job 3:20 (ESV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday 84/51: Our Record: 107**

*For more detail, please go to the web site.*

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## 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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

"For I am not

ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every-

### MEETING TIMES

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes:	10AM
AM Worship:	11AM
PM Worship:	5PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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### 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  
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Visit our website at:

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

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## Christian Paradox

Is it surprising when you read scripture that the message might seem to be confusing? One might almost say there are logical contradictions if taken at face value. The reality is that this way of thinking or these type of ideas can't be farther from the truth. **Romans 12:1-2 ASV** "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" We

must read scriptures with a humble mindset. Realizing these paradoxical statements actually renew our minds and transform us into those who are set apart from the world. A paradox is a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true. (Merriam-Webster.com) So let's read the scriptures as those in Berea. **Acts 17:11 NASB** "*Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*"



Think about the Beatitudes for a moment and what Christ says in His sermon on the mount. **Matthew 5:1-5 ASV** "*And seeing the multitudes, he went up into the mountain: and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*"

One who looks at what is taught here might think how can someone who is poor in spirit be a part of the kingdom of heaven? Shouldn't it be the person who does all the teaching, has all the answers and even had some sort of schooling. Most of us would think that that person would be worthy of the kingdom. This blind view has caused many to withhold their own personal growth in Christ by thinking they will never be good enough. Please don't let this be your mindset, Christ is telling us the poor in spirit is the humble spirit. **Proverbs 29:23 KJV** "*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*" In order to be a disciple of Christ dependence on God and His word is a necessity. Not thinking that I can never be like this person or that person but striving to be like Christ. **Philippians 2:5-8 ASV** "*Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being*

*found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.*"

By: Joe Murdock

What about the meek how do they inherit the earth. Doesn't it appear as if those who are the most aggressive or the most precocious get everything. First I find it appropriate to understand that to be meek does not mean to be weak. It is easy to think these two the same but they are not. To be meek has been described as a soldier who has a sword and knows how to use it but keeps it sheathed. An individual who is meek demonstrates their faithfulness to God by servitude. **Galatians 5:13-14 ASV** "*For ye, brethren, were called for freedom; only use not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through love be servants one to another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*" The Christian who understands and follows this principle finds this life to be a little bit easier. While our goal is not to inherit the earth the plain teachings of Christ aide us in this world and we can find peace in it by meekly serving others. **Colossians 3:12-15 ESV** "*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*"

In conclusion these characteristics can be easily seen by the sincere reader not to be the contradictions that the world might see but the characteristics of the faithful children of God. Seeking to die to self and live for him. Poor in spirit and meekness are not characteristic of man but followers of Christ. **Ephesians 4:21-24 KJV** "*If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*" This is how we are set apart from the world, by living in a completely different way than the world would act. **1 Peter 1:22-25 KJV** "*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*"

Family keep seeking the things that are above!