THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

I Think, I Feel

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Pray for Abby St Clair that she recovers quickly from her surgery. Terri Douthitt , Peggy Beebe needs our prayers. Pray for Herb and Jean Watson.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Aubrey and Henly are traveling.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly.

Breakfast: There will be a breakfast on October 19 for all members. Meet at the Mat-Su Family Restaurant at 8:00 AM.

Young Men's Training: There will be a young men's training at the building following the breakfast on October 19

Women's Study: The women's study will begin on Saturday October 12 at 1:00 PM at the Building

Evangelism: There are several bible studies ongoing. Check the website and attend if you can.

Today's Scripture: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God; **2 Corinthians 3:5 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. **Ecclesiastes 8:5 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 87: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

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October 13th, 2019 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ
AT WASILLA

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…"

CONTACT INFORMATION

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:

2061 N. Merciful Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

I Think, I Feel

By: Bill Beebe

What is the weather going to be tomorrow, Tuesday, next week or next month? Meteorologist use a great many tools to try to determine the answer to these questions. I have been on fires where meteorologist from the US Weather Service have been assigned and, while there, I got to see the computers and other tools that they used in an attempt to develop a forecast for us. But when it all came down to it, when I would ask them what the weather was going to be, their answer was "I think it will be…".

Thinking and feeling are not bad things to do, we all do them and do them regularly. We think constantly and we have feelings regularly. Both of these help us negotiate our lives on a daily basis. But both of these phrases can be used is several ways. The phrase "I think" as we often use it means this is the way I interpret this or that. The phrase "I feel" as we often use it means this is my opinion. The problem is when we begin to use these in relation to the Bible.

Too often we hear people say something similar to; "I don't think that a loving God would condemn anyone to an eternity in hell, especially someone as good as he/she was." Or how often have we heard someone say "If (so and so) is going to heaven I will too because I feel that I am a much better person than he/she is." The problem is that "I think" or "I feel" are not adequate standards of measurement when it comes to our relationship with God.

A person who has the attitude of "I think I am saved because I have asked Jesus to come into my heart and said the sinners prayer" needs to have a better understanding of the Bible. The idea of asking Jesus to come into your heart is not taught in the Bible. The one verse that even hints at this is **Revelation 3:20 (KJV)** where John quotes Jesus saying "[20] *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me*." In this passage, though, Jesus is speaking to Christians in the church in Laodicea. He has told them that they are lukewarm and because of that He will spew them from His mouth. But then tells them that He is standing at the door and knocking and whoever opens it up and lets Him in He will be back in fellowship with them. The move away from believers baptism to the sinners prayer began with the idea of infant baptism. When people begin to think that men were totally depraved as taught by John Calvin, they needed to find a way to save their children and infant baptism by sprinkling began to be used for that purpose. Though time, although most preachers still held to the validity of baptism, they disagreed on its significance. In the 1700's the use of baptism was falling more and more out of what was then mainstream religion. However, most felt (this is where the "I feel" begins to creep in) that adults still needed to do something for salvation to be presented to them. It is then when preachers begin to coopt Revelation 3:20, a lecturer named John Webb misused this passage in the mid 1700s as a basis of evangelizing non-Christians. He taught *"Here is a promise of Union to Christ; in these words, I will come in to him. i.e. If any Sinner will but hear my Voice and open the Door, and receive me by Faith, I will come into his Soul, and unite him to me, and make him a living member of that my mystical body of which I am the Head." (Christ's Suit to the Sinner, 14)*[1] . This is, of course, a complete corruption of this verse. Then in 1741 a preacher named Eleazar Wheelock used a "mourners seat" where he had unbelievers sit on the front pew and preached that "salvation was looming over their heads". About 1835 a preacher named Charles Finney begin to use this system and stated: *"The church has always felt it necessary to have something of this kind to answer this very purpose. In the days of the apostles, baptism answered this purpose. The gospel was preached to the people, and then all those who were willing to be on the side of Christ, were called out to be baptized. It held the place that the anxious seat does now as a public manifestation of their determination to be Christians"*[2]. Once again we see where people "felt" instead of studying to rightly divide the scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15) and fully understand the importance of baptism.

In the 1860's Dwight Moody used this system, but modified it. He thought that the public decision to become converted resulted in conversions under pressure. So he would invite people into a room, called the "Inquiry Room" where they would be taught some Bible and a prayer would be said for them. Although prayer had been used as a means of accepting Christ throughout the 1800's, Moody influence spread through the US and UK where a systematic "sinners prayer" was born. However It wasn't until Billy Sunday, begin to preach that it was formally called "The Sinners Prayer". Then Billy Graham and Bill Bright begin to spread this idea actively at their crusades. Bill Bright came up with the standard sinners prayer "*"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."*[3] And Billy Graham brought this to mainstream thought.

When we are talking about the eternal destiny of our souls, there is no room for "I think" or "I feel". The only thing we need to rely on is what does the Bible say. And the Bible never teaches a "Sinners Prayer" as a means for the unconverted to become Christians. It does however, teach that one must Believe, Repent, Confess, be Baptized and remain Faithful to be saved.

[1] From the website http://www.bible.ca/g-sinners-prayer.htm; [2] Ibid; [3] Ibid