

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Statis Quo or Faith

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Kenny Dearing, Wayne and Cathy, Peggy Beebe.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

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

Today's Scripture: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*." **Jeremiah 20:9 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: *then* spake I with my tongue," **Psalms 39:3 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 26: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell	(907) 373-5583	ed@churchofchristwasilla.com
Hans Nicholson	(907) 230-2969	hnichs@gmail.com
Paul Stone	(907) 491-1170	good_nooz@yahoo.com

DEACONS:

Joe Murdock	(907) 715-0089	montana2189@hotmail.com
Phillip Kelly	(907) 632-1118	affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com
Logan Decker	(907) 244-1777	logan.decker9@gmail.com

EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe	(907) 841-9261	bill@churchofchristwasilla.com
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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

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto sal-

CONTACT INFORMATION

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:

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

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Status Quo or Faith

Status quo is defined as the current condition. It is the way things are now, not necessarily related to how they have been. The church of Christ at Wasilla used to meet on Sunday mornings, early on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings. But our status quo has been changed with the current coronavirus pandemic. When this all began the Elders made the best decision that they could based on the information available at the time. The Elders of other congregations throughout Alaska and the United States made similar decisions. They carry a heavy burden, protecting both the spiritual health of the congregation and its physical health. While trying to negotiate the somewhat divergent commands and examples in the New Testament regarding obeying the laws of the land and the commandments of God. In **Acts 5:27-29 (KJV)** we read: *"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."* However, later we read Paul saying **Romans 13:1-2 (KJV)** *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation."* At first, it appears that these two statements are in direct opposition. But when we consider them, we realize that they are complimentary. Taken together we understand them to teach that we are obliged to obey the laws of the government that we live in so long as they do not conflict with God's law. We see this in practice in the New Testament when Jesus was asked if the Jews should pay taxes to Rome. His answer gives us a direct explanation of how we should treat the government and God. **Matthew 22:16-21 (KJV)** *"And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."* So Jesus is clear, we owe our allegiance to both God and the government. But God always comes first. And if there is ever a conflict between the two, we are to obey God. But if we can we must obey both.

So where does our faith come in? When the early Christians dispersed from Jerusalem during the persecution led by Saul of Tarsus they didn't just leave Jerusalem and remain silent. They began spreading the word. We know that

Preacher: Tom Betti Article By: Bill Beebe

Phillip went to Samaria. **Acts 8:4-5 (KJV)** *"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."* Some probably went to Damascus. Although Luke doesn't specifically tell us that in the same way he told us about Samaria, we know that there were Christians in Damascus because Saul asked for and received authority to travel there to arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem for trial. What this tells us is that when their status quo was disturbed their faith caused them to create a new one. Initially they were settled in Jerusalem. Luke gave us a glimpse of this when he wrote *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* **Acts 2:42-47 (KJV)**. This was their status quo before the persecution, but because of it they had to develop a new one. Because of their faith, the new status quo was one of evangelism, Luke tells us that they "...went everywhere preaching the word."

The pandemic has upset our status quo, just like the persecution in Jerusalem led by Saul did to the first century Christians there. The question now is what will our faith demand that we do? Will we adjust like they did in Jerusalem, with the result being that the gospel is spread and new congregations planted? Or will we sit back longing for the good old days when things were simpler? But things aren't simpler now and they may never be again. Will our faith be strong enough to build a different status quo, one that causes us to become more evangelistic as we settle into the new normal whatever that may be? Or will our faith be so weak that we can not adjust so we just coast along and do nothing because we can't seem to deal with the new status quo.

So maybe the statement is not "Status Quo Or Faith", but "Status Quo and Faith".