

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Mules

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Abby St. Clair, Helen Spicer, Nate, Scott and Natalee, Josiah; Wayne and Cathy; Peggy . All health care providers

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Alice and Christine are driving outside to help Aubrey move. Aubrey will be moving to Texas soon.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

**John 4:35 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;" **Psalm 92:13-14 (KJV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday 77/69:** Our Record: 107

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

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### EVANGELIST

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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 salvation to everyone that believeth..."

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><b>MEETING TIMES</b></p> <p><u>Sunday:</u>          Bible Classes: 10AM          AM Worship: 11AM          PM Worship: 5PM</p> <p><u>Wednesday:</u>          Bible Study: 7PM</p>	<p><b>COME JOIN US!</b></p> <p>The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:</p> <p>2061 N. Merciful Circle          Wasilla, AK 99654          (907) 373-5773</p> <p>Visit our website at:  <a href="http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com">www.churchofchristwasilla.com</a></p>
<p><b>OFFICE HOURS</b></p> <p>Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web</p>	

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## A Generation of Mules

Mules are a very unique animal. They are a cross between a horse and a donkey. They work hard, they generally have even tempers and they are sure footed. They can be used for a great variety of chores from pulling plows and wagons to riding. They make great pack animals and work well in pack trains. But they have one major drawback, the stallions are sterile, they cannot reproduce.

Sometimes Christians are a lot like mules. We work hard in the church, we have Sunday morning classes for all ages. The Elders approve all our teaching material, teachers are vetted and are able to talk with the Elders or evangelist for directions on how to handle difficult or controversial issues. We have a ladies class, and we have a men's Bible study almost every week. We hold cookouts and have potlucks. We conduct door knocking campaigns and radio lessons. Several of us get together to study in addition to our regular Sunday morning and Wednesday evening bible classes. And when we do, those study sessions may last for several hours. Our contribution exceeds the budget set by the Elders. We do so much work that sometimes we get worn out. It is great to work for the Lord! But, like mules we are often sterile. We just don't reproduce. And what was a strong and active congregation begins to wither and die as its members grow old. It is a terrible thing to see a building where 200-300 Christians once met and worshiped, but now is filled with only 30-40 elderly people meeting once a week. Barely able to pay their utility bills. And...we sit back wondering what happened.

When Jesus met with His disciples the last time, He could have reminded them that He told a Pharisee once that *"... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* **Matthew 22:37-40 (KJV)**. Or he could have reminded them that he told Peter *"... I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."* **Matthew 18:22 (KJV)** when Peter asked Him how many time he should forgive a brother who sins against him. He could have reminded them about all the things He said in what we call the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7).

But He didn't do any of these. His last command to his disciples was *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* **Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** In other words, make more Christians. And the first century Christians took this seriously. Peter preached on Pentecost in Jerusalem and 3,000 new Christians were born (Acts 2:41). After that he preached again and 5,000 men became Christians

## Sermon by: Bill Beebe; Article by: Bill Beebe

(Acts 4:4). When Saul of Tarsus was persecuting the Christians in Jerusalem, many left. And when they left they took the gospel with them and preached it; *"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."* **Acts 8:4-5 (KJV)**

Jesus also taught about bearing fruit. **John 15:1-2 (KJV)** *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* When a vine bears fruit, it bears the fruit that is associated with that vine. A grape vine bears grapes, a tomato vine bears tomatoes, so when a Christian bears fruit it should be more Christians. Now I understand that Paul discusses fruit of the spirit in both Galatians 5:22-23 and Ephesians 5:9. And these things are also some things that we need to produce in our lives. But Jesus was also clear about our duty here in making more disciples and the time is now **John 4:35 (KJV)** *"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."*

The question is will you be a mule, a hard worker in the Church but one who does not reproduce? Where will our church be in 20 or 30 years? Will we be a strong, active and growing church? Or will we be like so many others, withering on the vine with only a few older people attending barely able to pay the utilities?

It is completely up to us. We can be a generation of mules, working hard but never reproducing. Or we can be productive members of the Kingdom of God, working and growing in our knowledge of the Bible and producing fruit. Our Bible Study every other Friday night is designed to prepare us for evangelistic personal work. Attend and prepare to bear fruit for the kingdom!

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### Gospel Meeting

Put in your calendar and plan to attend our Gospel Meeting

August 21 (7:00 PM), 22(5:00 PM), 23(10:00 AM and 5:00 PM), 2020

Ron Halbrook

Will be preaching about

"Searching for God and Salvation"