

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

An Active Church

OUR FAMILY NEWS

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

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Hans is in Dillingham for fishing season. Allice and Christine will be driving outside in August. Aubrey is moving to Texas.

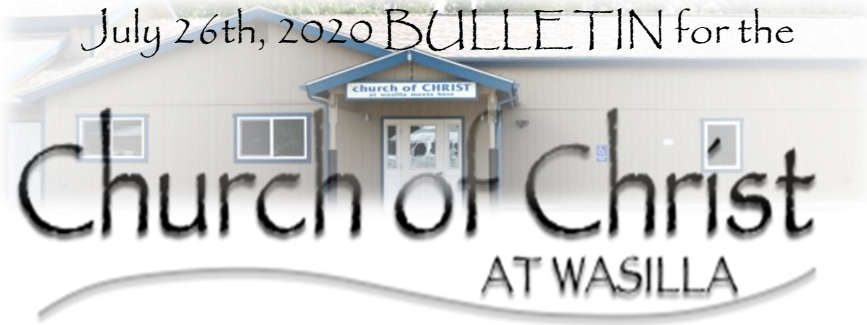
Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program.

Today's Scripture: "Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also." **Acts 15:35 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways" **Job 34:11 (KJV)** .

Attendance Last Sunday 58/51: 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 BaptizedMark 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:
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Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

An Active Church

We can read Jesus' warning to the church in Laodicea in **Revelation 3:15-16 (KJV)** *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."* We can not afford to be a lukewarm church today, but how do we become and remain a church that is alive and active?

In **Acts 2:41-47 (NKJV)** Luke writes *"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* As a result of Peter's sermon, the church began with 3,000 being added to the initial disciples of Jesus. But notice what happens then. The Christians shared their wealth making sure that all had what was needed, they met daily in the temple and house to house praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. Then the Lord continued to add people to the church. This is the very definition of an active church. One where love for each other insures that everyone has what is needed. One where teaching and studying was constant, being done daily. One where the love for God caused them to praise Him daily. Then a while later, still in 30 AD, more than five thousand were added to the church. Luke states that *"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."* **Acts 4:4 (KJV)**. What we know about this is that Peter was still teaching and preaching plainly, laying the blame for the death of Jesus directly at the feet of the Jewish leaders.

These two instances can teach us much about what an active church looks and behaves like. First and foremost, they taught the clear message of Jesus. He lived, He was killed on the cross, He was buried and He arose on the third day. He ascended back into Heaven and is at the right hand of God now. **Acts 2:29-33 (KJV)** *"Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the*

Sermon by: Daniel Schramm Article By: Bill Beebe

Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." In Acts 4 we see another aspect of an active church. This is one where the gospel is preached even in the face of persecution. **Acts 4:1-3 (KJV)** *"And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide."*

Another aspect of an active church is that they prayed for God's help. Peter and John had been arrested and after being released they told the church all that had happened. And the church prayed for God's help: **Acts 4:24-30 (KJV)** *"And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal: and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus."*



A final aspect of an active church is that everyone spread the Gospel. They didn't rely on only a few preachers or evangelists. After Stephen is stoned to death, becoming the church's first martyr, persecution in Jerusalem became more intense. Because of this many Christians left the city and Luke writes *"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."* **Acts 8:4 (KJV)**.

So from the inspired word, we can determine at least five things that are present in active and alive congregations. These are: ¹⁾ the church presented a clear and unified message of hope through the sacrifice of Jesus, ²⁾ the church shared a love for one another that was genuine ³⁾ this message was taught with boldness, even in the face of persecution, ⁴⁾ the church prayed to God for help, they didn't rely on themselves but they relied on God, and ⁵⁾ everyone in the church preached the word, they didn't rely on only a few to do all the evangelistic work. For us to be an active, alive and growing church we will have to replicate these things. Let's get serious about becoming and remaining an active, alive and growing church.