

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Searching

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Josiah is still in Seattle after going through emergency surgery, Wayne and Cathy, Pattie Decker, Tammy Spicer, Abby St. Clair, Helen Spicer, Peggy . All health care providers

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

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

Today's Scripture: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." **John 5:39 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." **Ecclesiastes 1:13 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 72/52: 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

"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

Searching

Humans are always searching for something. Solomon discussed this in **Ecclesiastes 1:12-14** where he wrote *"I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind."* Then again in **Ecclesiastes 7:25 (NKJV)** he wrote *"I applied my heart to know, To search and seek out wisdom and the reason of things, To know the wickedness of folly, Even of foolishness and madness."* Solomon used the wisdom that was given to him by God to search and understand what is done in the universe, but in the end he recognized it was all a vanity. **Ecclesiastes 12:6-8 (NKJV)** *"Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."*

But there are searches that are not vain, searches that will produce viable results with eternal consequences. There are two vitally important searches that we are seem hardwired to conduct. First is our search for God, does He exist and if so how can we know? And the second is our search for salvation, if God does exist how can we draw near to Him?

Many philosophers have spent a lifetime trying to prove that God exist or that He doesn't exist through logic. Those who are searching for ways to prove that God does, in fact, exist have come up with three basic arguments for His existence. These are ¹⁾The Teleological Argument, ²⁾The Cosmological Argument and ³⁾The Ontological Argument. These three arguments argue for the existence of God through logic.

The Teleological Argument argues for God's existence by noting the design of the Universe. It says that this design couldn't happen on its own and by accident anymore than a clock could. Therefore since there is intelligent design throughout the Universe, there must be an intelligent designer who exists outside the confines of space and time. This intelligent designer is God.

The Cosmological Argument is an argument from cause and effect. It states that everything we know, and can see, in the universe is the effect of some cause. In other words, something causes everything to happen. It goes on to argue that it is unreasonable for cause and effect to extend backward infinitely. That at some point there has to be an uncaused first cause. Something that was not the effect of a cause, that caused everything else. That uncaused first cause is God.

The Ontological Argument states that God must exist because we must ourselves recognize that there is something that exist in a state that no greater thing can be conceived. And since we can conceive in our minds that there

Sermon by: Ron Halbrook; Article by: Bill Beebe

must be a being that is so perfect, so powerful and so loving that we we can not even imagine something more perfect, or more powerful, or more loving. That being that we can imagine where we can not imagine any greater or more perfect is God. We have a capacity for God and He fills that capacity.

Job has, perhaps be best argument for the existence of God that can be found. *"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?" Job 12:7-9 (KJV)* In other words, the proof of the existence of God is right before our eyes.

Since there is a God, the second search we do is how to become united with Him again. Sin separated humanity and God, so how can we remove that which separated us from Him? And the answer is, we can't. We can not do enough good deeds to cover the sin that we do. So we are hopelessly lost for eternity on our own. But God in His love for us planed from the beginning for a way for us to reunite with him without the plague of sin being charged to us. This plan involved the Word becoming flesh, living among us as a man, dying, but being resurrected to never die again, ascending into heaven and sitting at the right hand of the Father. It was the sacrifice of Jesus, His blood being shed, that was able to allow God to see us as sinless, even though we are now and always will be sinful creatures. Almost all the people who claim to be Christians agree with this, however it is how we come into contact with the blood of Jesus that we need to search for today.

There are so many teachers who teach ways to salvation which are almost diametrically opposed that the seeker can get lost in the search. Some teach that all a person has to do is believe that Jesus died for their sins and they will be saved. Others teach that a person must believe and repent and they will be saved. Still others teach that a person must believe, repent and say a sinners prayer to be saved. But like the existence of God, the answer is clear and easy to find for those who truly search for it. It is laid out for us in the book of Acts. Acts 2:14-41 teaches us that we have to hear the message about Jesus, repent and be baptized for the remission of our sins. Acts 8:26-40 teaches that we have to hear, believe, confess and be baptized. And Acts 9:1-18 teaches us that prayer, regardless of how sincere it is, will not save us. It is the act of baptism that allows us to come into contact with the with the blood of Jesus thereby allowing God to see us without our sins. Ananias told Paul this in **Acts 22:16 (KJV)** *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* The answer to our search for salvation is simple. Hear the gospel, believe it, confess that belief, repent from your sin filled life and be baptized by immersion in water.