

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Repentance

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.

Men's Meeting: Agenda items are due to Ed on September 6, 2020.

Women's Class: The women's class is cancelled for a week or so, see Terry for more information.

Radio Programs: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program and our "One Minute for God" series on KMBQ 99.7.

Today's Scripture: "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." **Luke 3:8 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." **Job 42:6 (NIV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 86/64: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

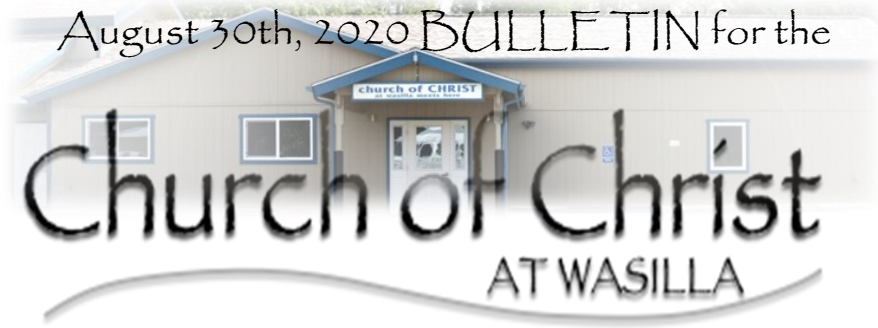
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God's Plan of Salvation

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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 Wasilla, AK 99654
 (907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Repentance

All of us know that repentance is commanded and is one of the things that sinners are to do in order to be saved. The Holy Ghost inspired several of the writers of the New Testament to include it in their letters. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all contain references to it. And Luke mentions it again in Acts. Paul uses it in Romans, 2 Corinthians and 2 Timothy. Then the writer of the book of Hebrews uses it, and Peter makes mention of it in 2 Peter. And finally John is inspired to use it in the book of Revelation. In total, the words “repent”, “repented”, and “repentance” are used 66 times in 60 verses in the King James Version of the Bible.

We all have an understanding of what the words mean. Vines refers to several Greek words that are translated as “repent”, “repented”, “repentance” and “not repented of”. But the general theme in all of these is a change in a person's mind or purpose. Dictionary.com defines “repent” as:

to feel sorry, self-reproachful, or contrite for past conduct; regret or be conscience-stricken about a past action, attitude, etc. (often followed by of): He repented after his thoughtless act.

to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one's life for the better; be penitent.

The problem that we have is how do we repent? Is it enough to make a change of mind without the corresponding change in actions? I think many people look at repentance like this. They make a mental attempt to change their minds and not continue to do what they had been doing, but that mental consent to repentance never shows up in their actions. Oh...they attend worship services and give verbal support to the activities of the church, but their actions outside the church or when they are not around brothers and sisters is the same way that they acted before making a statement of repentance. And it shows up in their lack of participation in evangelism.

Or can we change our actions without making the corresponding change in our minds? I believe that there are many people who regularly attend worship and the other activities of the church who look at repentance like this. They have modified their actions, but their mind still runs along the path that it had before their “repentance”. While in worship they rarely pay attention to what is being taught or said. They are thinking about dinner later in the day and wish the sermon was not so long. Or they think about a fishing trip or hunting trip that they have planned. Or for the younger people, they think about the football or

Sermon by: Daniel Schramm; Article by: Bill Beebe

basketball game coming up. Or the test they have the next day, or almost anything but the message that is being delivered.

Or is true repentance a combination of both? This is what is taught and what the word actually implies. Jesus made it clear in his Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5:21-22 (KJV)** *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”* Here Jesus is clear, it is not enough to refrain from killing, but a person also has to control his mind and speech. In **Matthew 5:27-28 (KJV)** Jesus even makes it more clear: *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”*. How can it be more clear. The mind has to be controlled. So repentance, that change in a person's life includes changing their thinking as well.

Most of us in the church have made both a change in our minds and in our actions. We, at one time, never thought about attending church services (and maybe we even considered stopping when we got away from our parents), but now we can't imagine missing a service. Or maybe we used to use bad words and think lewd thoughts when we saw a beautiful woman. But now we never use a bad word and when we see a beautiful woman we avert our eyes and ask God for help in keeping lewd thoughts out of our minds. So we have truly repented! We have changed and are now in the church that we read about in the Bible. But are we the Christians that we read about?

The Christians that we read about in the Bible were so committed to God that they endured terrible persecution, but remained true to their beliefs. The Christians we read about taught others when they were dispersed preached the Word. **Acts 8:4 (KJV)** *“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”* And Jesus in His last command to the disciples said *“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)**.

Are we doing what Jesus told us to do on His final day on earth? Are we sitting back thinking that we have it made because we are members of His Church? Do we need to repent today because we have not been an active and productive member of His kingdom? Think about this!