

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Habits

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Josiah is still in Seattle after going through emergency surgery, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy . All health care providers

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Joe, Beverly and their family are in Cold Bay. Ben is still outside working on storm recovery.

**Men's Meeting:** There will be a men's meeting immediately following the AM worship on Sunday September 13, 2020. All the men are encouraged to attend.

**Radio Programs:** Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program and our "One Minute for God" series which airs three times a day six days a week on KMBQ 99.7.

**Today's Scripture:** "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "All the days of the afflicted *are* evil: but he that is of a merry heart *hath* a continual feast. **Proverbs 15:15 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 86/64: Our Record: 107

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

### ELDERS:

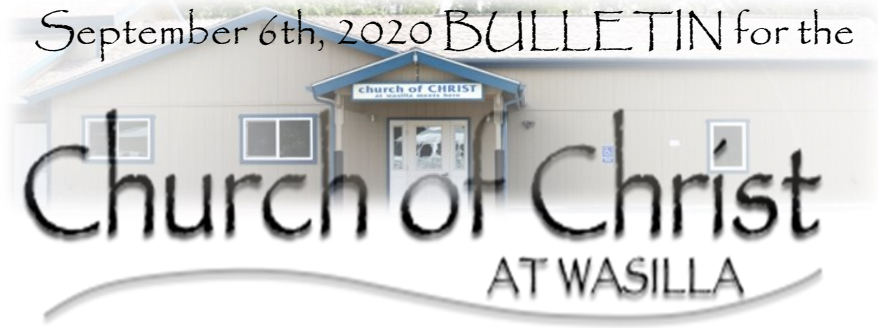
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God's Plan of Salvation

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 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](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## Habits

Have you ever done something so long and regular that it becomes a habit? I suspect that all of us have done that in the past and probably still do. Some habits are bad. Not only do they present a poor image of yourself to the public but some are detrimental to your health, over eating or smoking cigarettes for example. Some habits are bad, but no life threatening. I worked with a man once that cursed all the time. I was told that he was a deacon in one of the local denominational churches so it not only reflected badly on his character, it reflected badly on that group.

We can intentionally develop both bad and good habits that follow us our entire lives. The Apostle Paul told us some things that we should do habitually, although he didn't use that word. In **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 (KJV)** he tells us eight things that we need to make habits of doing. First in verse 16 Paul tells us to "Rejoice evermore". We should be a joyous people. Of all the people in the world we have the most to be happy about. Our father is the creator of the Universe, He owns it therefore we have heirs of it. We have a mansion being prepared for us in heaven (John 14:2) by Jesus. If we continue to live, God will bless us, if we die we get to go home so we are in a win/win situation. We should be the happiest people in the world.

In verse 17 we are told to "Pray without ceasing". We should develop a habit of having regular and constant conversations with God. This doesn't only involve praying, which is our side of the conversation but reading God's word to hear His side of the conversation. And we should do this without ceasing. Just think about it, we get to have regular and personal conversations with the being who created the universe and everything that is in it. Who wouldn't want to talk to Him?

Then in verse 18 Paul told us "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you". We need to intentionally develop a thankful attitude, recognizing that the things we have are just on loan to us for a while. Since we will live for only a short time, we really can not own very many things. The house we "own" will normally out last us and someone else will live in it after we are gone. The land we own will one day be someone else's. So we need to understand that the things in our lives that we have are blessings from God and we need to thank Him for them regularly. We also need to recognize that the talents we have were given to us by God. If we can sing we need to thank Him for that talent, if we can write we should thank him for that. In essence, we should give God thanks for everything in our lives, even if it seems bad because we can learn lessons from those things that will make our lives better in the long run.

Paul then tells us not to quench the Spirit. In Verse 19 he says "Quench not the Spirit". The idea here is one of putting out a fire. We should not put out the fire in our hearts that the Holy Spirit puts there. This fire is put there, not by a

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

miraculous gift, but through constant study of the Word that the Spirit gave to the writers and then protected through the ages for us today. We can make a habit of not putting it out by studying the Word on a regular basis. Studying is different from a daily bible reading habit in that it will cause us to dig deeper into the Word. To look for connections between the writings, to search out those cross references. This is a habit that we should work to develop.

Next we need to develop a habit of trusting the prophets. Paul tells us this in verse 20 when he says "Despise not prophesyings". The Old Testament is filled with prophesyings about Jesus, from where he would be born to his death. Studying and trusting these will give us confidence in the Gospels as they tell the story as it unfolds. Looking at both the prophets and the Gospels gives us confidence. Isaiah wrote about Jesus in about 686 BC and the synoptic Gospels are considered to have been written in the 60's AD, while John is thought to have been written between 85 and 95 AD. So studying the Prophets from the Old Testament then comparing them to the Gospels which were written at least 746 years later gives us confidence in the resurrection of Jesus.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good is another thing that Paul instructed us to do that we need to turn into habits. We need to prove everything that is being taught to us and cling to that which is good while discarding the bad. We need to do this with our own preachers and teachers, we are human and subject to error just like anyone else. You can prove all things by doing what the Bereans did in **Acts 17:10-11 (KJV)** "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Abstaining from all appearance of evil is a practice we need to develop. Making this a habit in our lives will prevent a lot of trouble for us. Watching what you wear, not only for modesty but for the message on the tee shirts. Some of those are not appropriate for Christians and present an appearance of evil. Because of this they should be avoided. We sometimes need to watch where we park our vehicles, what we watch on TV or at the movies, which magazines we read and even which games we play because all of these can, and often do, present the appearance of evil. Make a habit of avoiding these things and we can deflect many of Satan's temptations.

Habits made that cause you to be a better Christian are the habits we need to nurture and strengthen. Others we need to change. What are your habits, do you need to change some?