

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Self

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Michael Richardson. Nell Kelly had knee surgery. Danesa’s mother (Jean) pray for both of them, Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy . All health care providers

New Baby: Logan and Whitney Decker are the proud parents of a baby girl. Rose born on the 20th weighing 7 lbs and 19 inches.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

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: “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” **Matthew 16:24 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: “Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” **Proverbs 16:18 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 71/53: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

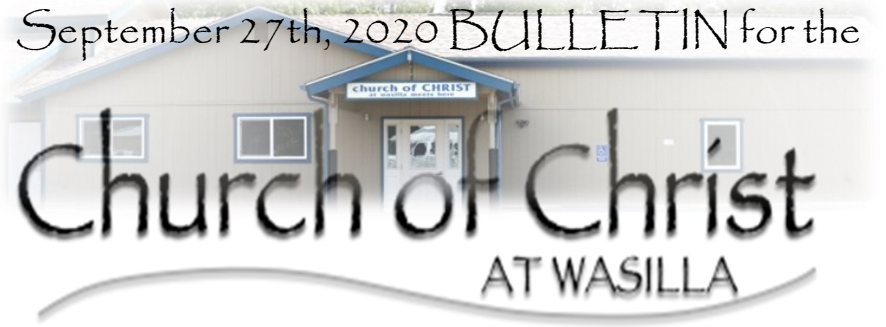
- Ed Maxwell (907) 373-5583 ed@churchofchristwasilla.com
- Hans Nicholson (907) 230-2969 hnichs@gmail.com
- Paul Stone (907) 491-1170 good_nooz@yahoo.com

DEACONS:

- Daniel Schramm (907)366-4088 schramm_03@yahoo.com
- Joe Murdock (907) 715-0089 montana2189@hotmail.com
- Phillip Kelly (907) 632-1118 affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com

EVANGELIST

- Bill Beebe (907) 841-9261 bill@churchofchristwasilla.com



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:

2061 N. Merciful Circle
 Wasilla, AK 99654
 (907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Examine Yourself

There is a story told in two of the gospels about an encounter that Jesus had with a young man. In Matthew 19:16-22 and in Luke 18:18-30 we are told this story from two viewpoints, both inspired by the Holy Spirit. You can read both stories for yourselves, but the important verses for this article are **Matthew 19:22 (KJV)** *"But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."* and **Luke 18:23 (KJV)** *"And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich."* You will notice that in both stories, the young man left Jesus when he was told **Luke 18:22 (KJV)** *"Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."* The young man had something that he loved more than Jesus and that was riches. Jesus understood what would keep this man from being a disciple and He told him that that thing had to be eliminated from his life if he were to be a follower. And both Matthew and Luke say that the young man "went away sorrowful" because he was very rich.

It is important that we examine ourselves to identify those things that keep us from being a true disciple of Jesus. We are told in **Matthew 18:7-9 (KJV)** that we should take drastic action to eliminate the things that prevent us from fully committing to Jesus. Listen to what Jesus says *"Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."* As we examine ourselves, and we find something that is taking us away from being a true follower of Jesus, we need to remove it from our lives. If it is Television that prevents us from studying, it needs to be removed. If it is a job that consistently prevents us from worshipping with the saints, we need to consider changing jobs. If it is sports, or hobbies, or clubs and other activities they need to be dealt with and removed from our lives or changed so that they do not interfere with worshipping our God and studying His word.

The most dangerous enemy that we Christians face is not our friends that consistently try to get us to party with them, or jobs that sometimes keep us from worshipping, or hobbies and other activities that sometimes steal our study time. No the worst enemy that we face is our selves. John hinted at this when he wrote **John 10:27-30 (KJV)** *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."* Here Jesus is saying no person is able to force us to sin and leave the church. No one can take us by force out of the saving

Sermon by: Tom Betti; Article by: Bill Beebe

hand of God. But we are also told by Peter in **2 Peter 2:19-22 (KJV)** that *"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."* Peter is addressing Christians here (2 Peter 1:1 makes this clear) and he is telling them that if they had escaped the pollutions of the world and then become entangled with them again, their end is worse than the beginning. And Jesus tells us Himself that a person who begins a life of discipleship and then turns back to look at all the things they gave up is not fit for the kingdom **Luke 9:62 (KJV)** *"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"*

It is critical that we understand that our worst enemy can be ourselves. And because of this we need to have the attitude that Paul had **1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (KJV)** *"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."* Paul made sure that he examined himself, *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection..."* because he did not want to be thrown away when he meets Jesus on judgement day. But how do we keep our bodies in subjection? The only way to do this is to keep focused on the goal. And that goal is a home with Jesus in Heaven. We must examine our selves to make sure that we are not looking longingly back at the life we left when we became Christians.

We must examine our selves to see if there are things in our lives that prevent us from being a truly dedicated disciple. No one can force me to leave the saving hand of God, but I can chose to leave. The only way we can prevent ourselves from turning back to the world and leaving the hand of God is to constantly examine ourselves. Have you done this lately? If not, do it today!

