

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Counting Costs

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Jennifer Morigeau, Alice Stone, Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Steve and Abby are in Juneau.

Men's Meeting: There will be a men's meeting immediately following worship this morning. All the men are encouraged to attend.

Radio Programs: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program on KMBQ 99.7 Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM.

Today's Scripture: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" **Mark 8:36-37 (KJV)**

³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Wisdom for Today: "For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?" **Job 27:8 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 52/43: Our Record: 107

For more information, visit our website at www.churchofchristwasilla.com

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)355-4088	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
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March 7th, 2021 BULLETIN for the



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
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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

Counting Costs

In **Matthew 16:24-26 (KJV)** we are told "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. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" We must count the cost of the lifestyle that we are living. This question is probably one of the most important question any person will have to answer. What are you willing to accept in exchange of your soul? Are you willing to accept the wealth of the entire world for 70 or even 100 years in exchange for an eternity in Hell? Or would you rather live the life of a pauper for 100 years for an eternity with God in Heaven?

One of the parables of Jesus addressed just this situation. **Luke 16:19-31 (KJV)** "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." The rich man was willing to accept a life of pleasure and leisure while ignoring those around him who had real need, and the cost at the end was torment and then Hell. On the other hand Lazarus accepted a life of pain and poverty for paradise.

But Ezra tells us of another situation where the cost of peoples souls was much higher than they could have imagined. The Israelites had been carried off into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar seventy years earlier. But the new kings were willing to release them, and even help them to repair Jerusalem and the temple that had been destroyed in that conquest. As the Jews returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the city, Ezra recognizes the condition of the returning people.

Sermon: Tom Betti; Article: Bill Beebe

They had forsaken the commands of God and had married those people that God had commanded them not to marry. **Ezra 9:1-4 (KJV)** "Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass. And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished. Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice." Ezra continued "And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens". **Ezra 9:5-6 (KJV)**.

Ezra was so distraught over the condition of the Jews that he tore the hair from his head and beard. He recognized the cost that the Israelites would have to pay to be acceptable to God again, and it would be a cost that would be unbelievable. But it would have to be paid because of their willingness to abandon the command of God to live easily for a season. The cost was giving up their wives and families **Ezra 10:10-12 (KJV)** "And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do."

The cost of sin is high. In the case of the Israelites returning from captivity after 70 years the cost was the loss of the families of those who had married women contrary to Gods commandments. It had to be paid in order for them to be right with God again. Sin still comes with an awful cost which we can not pay. It took the sacrifice of Jesus to pay the price for us. We can ignore the price for a while, living a life separated from God pursuing our own pleasures. But the time will come when the price will have to be paid. Or we can choose to obey God now, living a life that is in concert with His will and reap the rewards of that faithful life which will be eternity in Heaven in His presence.