

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Faith is a Journey

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Josiah, Wayne & Cathy, Helen Spicer, Bill & Peggy, The Beebe family, Mary Ann Smith, Gary McCurdy

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Joe & family

**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: Hebrews 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently him."

**Wisdom for Today: Habakkuk 2:4** "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

**Evening Sermon: "Beautiful Feet" - Daniel Schramm**

Attendance Last Sunday ? Our Record: 107  
For more information, visit our website at [www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

### ELDERS:

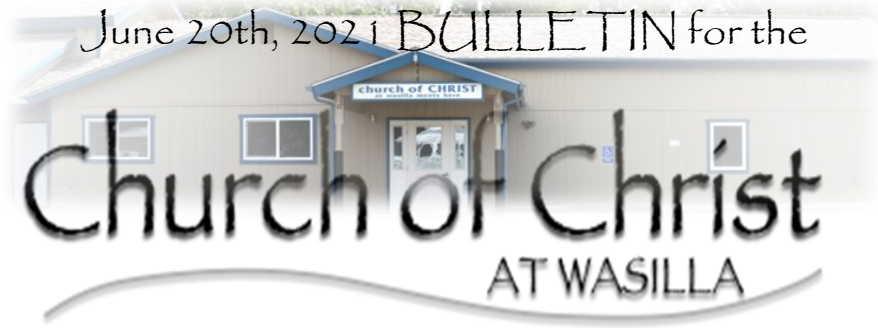
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**God's Plan of Salvation**

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  
 Remain Faithful.....Matt 24:13; Rev 2:10; James 1:12

"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  
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Visit our website at:  
[www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

### God's Grace: What It Will Not Do!

Nothing is more sublime, more beautiful, more eternally wonderful than God's grace. It is commonly known to be a gift from God that man did not, cannot and will never deserve. The favor of God is available to man as a gift, and it is a most far-reaching gift. The clearest picture of that grace is that of Jesus, God's Son on the cross. Not a one of us can stand up and claim to have deserved that gift, but it is available to every person on earth, Titus 2:11-14.

God's Grace is a popular topic of discussion in religious circles. The conclusions reached are often contrary to the Bible. One popular view is that at the end of time God's grace will cause him to merely wave His hand and wipe the slate clean for all. God's **love** might want to do so, but His **justice** will not permit it. Read Romans 3:26. He will be *just*, though He loves all. The gift is available to everyone, but some will reject God's love *and* justice and fail to enjoy the blessings!

Why? If it is a gift available to all, why may not everyone enjoy the blessings of that gift? That question deserves an answer. Recall that occasion described in the book of Acts, chapter 9. The central character of that text is Saul of Tarsus, later to be known as the apostle Paul. He was on a mission to arrest and execute followers of Christ. He had killed many, and was going to Damascus to continue his quest.

If God's grace is a gift, and if it is available to all, would not Saul/Paul already have had that gift? When the voice of God came to him Paul was asked why he was persecuting His people. If you read Acts 9 you know God told Paul there was something he had to do. He was told to go to Damascus and there it would be told him "...*what thou must do.*"

He knew he did not deserve God's forgiveness, but God offered it to him. He did just what God said to do and was told, "...*arise and be baptized*" (Acts 22:16). From that day forward Paul was God's major proponent of that grace. Yes, God's grace washed away his sins, but only when Paul had obeyed God's decree. God's grace cannot be earned, but conditions are given that must be met— like those to Paul— in order to receive the blessings of that grace.

The Christians in Galatia had received the benefits of grace, but they were told that they must abstain from certain forms of behavior if they wanted to "*inherit the kingdom of God*" (Gal. 5:19-21). Yes, it is *available to all*, but Jesus said "*many*" will be lost eternally, and "*few*" will be saved (Matt 7:13-14). God's grace is powerful, but there are some things it will not do. That is where man's part comes in.

Consider the following in light of the Bible's instructions:

1. Grace will not give anyone instructions that are contrary to what we read in the Bible.
2. Grace will not ignore the sin in a person's life, nor will it forgive sin contrary to what the Bible teaches. The gospel is God's "*power unto salvation,*" and God's grace will always agree with and uphold the principles and commandments of the Bible.
3. It will not take away man's free will, will not take over his mind and *make* him "do right."
4. Grace will not save a person who refused to obey the gospel, and we have been given instruction regarding those who "*obey not the gospel of Christ*" (2 Thess. 1:7-10)
5. His grace will not deny the significance of *man's* part in his/her salvation.
6. Grace will not guarantee that you will "*endure to the end.*" having "*kept the faith*" (Mark 13:13; 2 Tim. 4:7-8). That's *your* call. That's your part in God's grace.
7. Grace will not eliminate all life's hardships, our enemies, our health issues or temptations
8. God's grace will not contradict, ignore, deny, or forget what the Bible teaches within its pages.

God loves us, His favor is always directed to those who respect, love and obey Him. His grace is given to man *because he wants none* to be lost and **all** to be saved (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4).