

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

The Right Influence

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Josiah, Wayne & Cathy, Helen Spicer, Bill & Peggy, Ralph, Gary McCurdy, Viki Watson, David Webb

Traveling/Working: Hans, Steve & Abby

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: Matthew 5:13 *"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."*

Wisdom for Today: Proverbs 13:20 *"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*

Evening Sermon: "The Rapture?" Paul Stone

Attendance Last Sunday 66/49 Our Record: 107
For more information, visit our website at www.churchofchristwasilla.com

ELDERS:

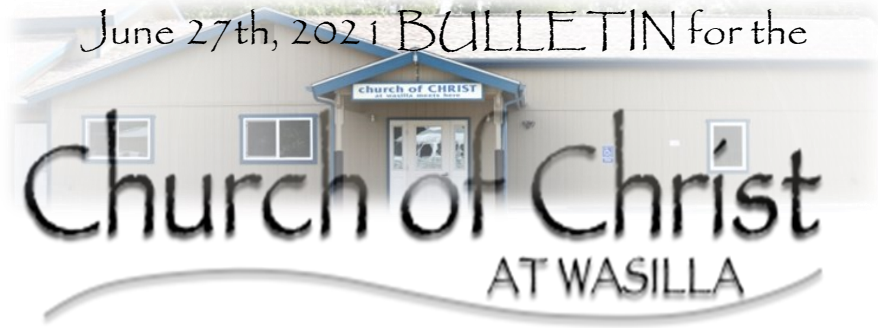
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God's Plan of Salvation

HearRomans 10:17
 BelieveMark 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:
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 (907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

The Right Influence

Salt and Light

There are physical elements in our cosmos capable of penetrating almost any substance. They serve a purpose in the household, in the kitchen and in the shop. When Jesus sought to portray the degree of penetration Christians should attain in their community, He used two of the most permeating substances in the world – salt and light. In His Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7), Jesus made it clear that being His disciple would not be a private, benign choice, but would result in reaching into every home, city, nation, environment and culture. Note His words at that time:

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is good for nothing but to be thrown out and be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Not do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand; and it gives light to all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:13-16)

Why did He use salt and light as the means of describing the task before us? Because of their nature they permeate and penetrate the entire area in which they exist.

Salt gives flavor to life. Sit down to an unseasoned plate of black-eyed peas with cornbread and you will quickly reach for the salt. It brings out the flavor of food. You find salt in some unexpected places. Look at the book of recipes and note how many include salt. When a Christian lives in a city or community, he/she can lend flavor to that community, making life more pleasant for all. We should be a joy for neighbors, for teachers and local business-people. Folks should be glad to see us coming because we can elevate the quality of their life from one that is insipid to one that is worth living.

Salt prevents corruption. Salt also is well known for its ability to prevent food from going bad. In that sense, salt is “aseptic,” not purifying that which is already corrupt but preventing corruption from taking place. We all know people in whose presence it is natural to *be* good and to *do* good. Filthy stories are not told in their presence. Sin is not countenanced. The Roman world considered salt a symbol of purity, and to our generation, Christians can also represent pure living, pure speech and pure hearts.

Sermon: Joe Murdock, Article: Carl B. Garner

Worthless salt. A Christian should be to life what salt is to food, but too often that is not the case. We can arrive at the point at which we no longer give life the flavor of Christ, and instead of representing purity we fall back into ways more characteristic of Satan’s followers than Christ’s. At that point, we are no longer useful to God, others or ourselves. We are, as Jesus said, only worthy of being “*thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*” Let this be a warning: Let’s live up to our calling!

Light allows sight. While Jesus was on earth, He was the “*light of the world*” (John 9:5). Today, Christians can be that light, reflecting the light of the very Son of God. Darkness often is used figuratively to illustrate wickedness, and light for righteousness (1 John 1-2, Eph. 5:8, Isa. 5:20). We are so accustomed to light’s availability that we may take it for granted. A candle or a flashlight, both are able to dispel darkness when light is needed. A Christian should light the way for those who are seeking God’s Truth.

Light warns of danger. Modern technology has almost relegated the ancient lighthouse to the tourist shops. Once, they were the only way a ship could be made aware of the rocks on the shore. It saved many a sailor in those more primitive times. A similar responsibility is given to every Christian, to warn others of dangers threatening us on this old earth. That is exactly why we were given that “Great Commission”, to make mankind aware of Satan’s devices, warn us of dangers to our soul, and provide answers to those issues. Salt, light – that’s us!

However, what happens when there is *too much* salt in the peas? That’s not good, is it? What about that car’s headlights that are so bright that we cannot focus on our path? That’s not good either. We must be the “*salt of the earth*” and “*light of the world*”, but when our doing so calls attention to ourselves instead of the Lord, who called us by His Word, we have turned things upside-down and our influence is diminished. Any glory that accrues is the Lord’s, not mine.

We all have a wonderful privilege, that of calling others to the joys of being children of God, salt and light, that’s us – you and I!

Calendar of Events

Please pray for and plan for these events!

July 12-17 Tent Meeting - David Fanning
Aug 8-11 Personal Evangelism Seminar - Rob Whitacre
Aug 22-25 Gospel Meeting - Brendon Ashby