

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Believe Without Seeing!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** The Reeds grandson, Caleb and his mother; Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe; Wayne Ezell will travel to Seattle later this month for treatment.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Thad Douthitt (deployed), Steve and Abby, Hans and Danesa will be traveling outside the last of this month.

**Radio Program:** Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

**Fellowship:** The Deckers' are hosting a gathering of the young adults at their home on March 24 at 6:00 PM.

**Mens' Meeting:** March 25 immediately following morning services, agenda topics should be given to Ed by March 18.

**Bible studies:** Friday morning, March 16 at 9:00 AM at Ed's. There will be a men's breakfast at the Denali Saturday, March 17 at 8:30 AM followed by a bible study at the building immediately afterwards.

**Today's Scripture:** "Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer." Thomas responded to Him, "My Lord and my God!". **John 20:27-28 (HCSB)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 69      Record: 96

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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March 11th, 2018 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..."

—Romans 1:16 KJV

### MEETING TIMES

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes: 10AM

AM Worship: 11AM

PM Worship: 6PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7PM

### OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. 3PM-7PM

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

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## Believe without seeing, and choose wisely!

Occasionally we find ourselves in a situation where someone is telling us something that is so out of the ordinary that we say we will not believe it unless we see it with our own eyes. This is what Thomas did when the disciples told him that they had seen Jesus after His death. In this situation, Jesus had appeared to eleven of the Apostles inside a locked room. Thomas was not there and as the others were telling him about this encounter he made the famous statement *"If I don't see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!"* **John 20:25 (HCSB)**. Of course, Jesus did appear again inside a locked room when Thomas was there. Jesus let him see the mark of the nails and put his hand into the wound on His side. It was then that Thomas responded "My Lord and my God!", to which Jesus replied "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."

Today there are a lot of people who do not believe in God because, according to them, they can't believe without seeing. Atheists use this as an argument against the existence of God. It is called "The Problem of Divine Hiddenness". According to this argument, if God existed and was really interested in mankind He would make His presence so obvious that no one anywhere could doubt or have any valid questions about His existence. Of course, we Christians believe that God has given us more than adequate evidence of His existence.

Job tells us to look to nature for evidence of the existence of God. *"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?"* **Job 12:7-11 (KJV)**. In this passage, Job is telling us that nature itself shouts that God is. This is just as good an argument today as it was for Job. Look at the design in nature, how well the animals fit into their proper places to exist and thrive. Look at the earth itself, placed just the right distance from the Sun to allow liquid water, shielded by the giant gas planets from excessive bombardment by asteroids, with just the right rotation to allow generally even heating of the surface, and a wobble that causes us to have seasons. Can this really be the result of a long unbroken chain of accidental events, or does it demand a designer?

I suspect that most everyone who reads this article already believes that God does exist. That Jesus is His son, who died and was raised the third day. And that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God. The issue is likely not whether we believe in God or not, or even whether we believe in Jesus and the Holy Ghost or not, but how far does our belief take us? And therefore, how strong is our faith?

## By: Bill Beebe

According to the writer of Hebrews faith is the evidence of things we cannot see, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* **Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)** Is our faith just strong enough to convince us that God does exist, but not strong enough to cause us to obey? That is the type of faith a lot of people seem to have. They will say that they believe in God. They may even wear a cross on a chain around their neck or have one tattooed onto their shoulder. But their life style is so contrary to how we are told to live that it is hard to be convinced that they have any faith at all. How often do we see movie stars or singers who thank God for their success, but live a life immersed in sexual immorality, and who support or even engage in homosexual activities. Their faith seems to be just strong enough for them to consent to the existence of God but not strong enough for them to obey.

So what would it mean if God provided us absolute, undeniable proof of His existence. What difference would it make in your lives if you knew, and everyone else also knew, without any doubt whatsoever, that God existed? Would you attend services of the church more regularly because you could see and sit next to Jesus? Would you pay more attention to your speech if you knew without a doubt that God was listening? Would you view that porn site or cheat on your taxes if God was sitting on the couch with you? This brings us back to the problem of "The Divine Hiddenness". If God revealed Himself so vividly that His existence could never be doubted, none of us would have freedom of choice. Who would sin if you knew absolutely without a shadow of a doubt that God was real and was watching?

In God's infinite wisdom, He has given us adequate proof of His existence without taking away our freedom of choice. He wants us to worship Him because we want to, not because we have no choice. He wants us to love Him because of who He is, not because we cannot do anything else but love Him. We don't have to look at the nail holes nor do we have to put our hands into the wound in His side. Our faith demands that we believe, because it is the "evidence of things not seen"!

But that presents us with choices doesn't it? Will you be at the services of the church Sunday evening and Wednesday nights because you believe that Jesus is with us (Matthew 18:20)? Or will you skip it because the game is on, or the fish are biting, or your favorite show is on TV and you can't see Jesus at the church building anyway? Will you watch that immoral TV show, or visit the porn site or cheat on your taxes? Will you allow your tongue to run rampant and lose? Or will you make choices based on a faith that demands obedience as did Abraham, Noah, Rahab and the others listed in Hebrews 11. Choose wisely, Heaven and Hell are both being prepared!