

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Teach Us To Pray!

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Cassy Douthit has an ear infection, Clohe Larson, The Reeds grandson, Caleb and his mother; Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe; Wayne Ezell as he recovers from surgery,

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Thad Douthitt (deployed) , Darlene, Christina and Rebekah are also traveling May 10-15. .

Prayers Answered: Hans and Danesa had a safe trip outside.

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

Today's Scripture: "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." **Luke 11:1 (KJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy." **Psalms 64:1 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 70 Record: 96

CONTACT INFORMATION

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May 6th, 2018 BULLETIN for the



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
- 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:

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Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Teach Us To Pray! (Part 3)

The past two weeks we have considered the sample prayer that Jesus used to teach His disciples to pray. You will recall that the disciples seeing Jesus pray regularly asked Him to teach them to pray like John, the baptizer taught his disciples (Luke 11:1) In our study, we have seen that Jesus told them to:

- Pray to the Father (Luke 11:2)
- Praise the Father (Luke 11:2)
- Pray for the Kingdom (Luke 11:2). Jesus told them to pray “thy Kingdom come”. However God’s Kingdom has come, Peter opened it to the Jews on Pentecost in 30 AD as recorded in Acts 2, and to Gentiles in 37 AD as recorded by Luke in Acts 10. Since the Kingdom has come it is no longer necessary to pray “thy Kingdom come”, but it is entirely appropriate to pray that God bless His Kingdom, that He strengthen it and that it grow.
- Pray that God’s will be done on earth as it is in Heaven (Luke 11:2)
- Pray that the physical needs of the disciples are met (Luke 11:3)

We will continue to look into this sample prayer as we learn from Jesus how to pray. In Luke 11:4 Jesus tells His disciples to pray that their sins be forgiven. However, He does not stop with that. He tells them to ask God to forgive them as they forgive those who sin against them. Luke records it in this manner; *“And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.”* **Luke 11:4a (KJV)** while Matthew says it as follows; *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”* **Matthew 6:12 (KJV)**.

I believe that it is critical that we recognize the importance of these passages. Jesus is telling His disciples to ask God the Father to forgive them of their sins (debts) as they forgive those who have sinned against them. Notice the structure of the sentences, In Luke “forgive us for we forgive everyone indebted to us” and in Matthew “forgive us as we forgive our debtors”. Consequently, if we do not forgive those who have wronged us, we shouldn’t expect God to forgive us! It is up to us to forgive others first, before we ask God to forgive us. This idea is also demonstrated in Mark 11:25 where Jesus says *“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”* Jesus clearly says that the person praying should forgive first before asking God for forgiveness. And in Luke 6:37 *“Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:”* that thought is reiterated.

In none of these passages does Jesus say ask God to forgive you, then because He has forgiven you, forgive others. What He is clearly saying is “Forgive others, then the Father will forgive you.” Another lesson that we must learn from this

By: Bill Beebe

is that in forgiving others we do not cause God to be indebted to forgive us. There is nothing that we can do that will put God in a position of owing any one of us a debt of forgiveness. God forgives us from grace, not from something that is owed to us. Therefore, we must also forgive others without an attitude of counting debt. Jesus made this very clear when Peter asked Him how often we should forgive a person who has wronged us. Matthew records this as follows *“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven”* .**Matthew 18:21-22 (KJV)** . The lesson here is that we forgive as often as it takes, and in doing so forgiving others will become a habit that we do and not something that we keep a record of.

But forgiveness as taught in God’s Word is not the singular action of the offended person. It is the result of two persons who seek to reignite a broken relationship. In order for forgiveness to truly occur, it has to be offered AND received. Therefore the offending person has a part to play in gaining forgiveness. That part, when we are talking about God and man is clear. It requires our confession and repentance. Should we expect it to be any different between two humans? I can, and should, be ready to forgive just as God is. I should jump at the opportunity even when the offence is repeated seven times seventy times just as God forgives me so often that I can not count them. But true forgiveness can only occur when one person recognizes that he/she has committed an offence, repents and asks for forgiveness. Jesus’s teaching on this is crystal clear; *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”* **Matthew 5:23-24 (KJV)** Before worshiping God I must resolve any issue that I have with another person. I have to recognize my error, then go to my brother or sister and be reconciled to them!

A very clear example of this concept is given us in the murder of Stephen. Luke gives this account; *“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”* **Acts 7:59-60 (KJV)** Stephen clearly wanted them to be forgiven and he was obviously willing to forgive them, but when were they forgiven? Did God forgive them of murder because Stephen asked Him to, or were they still required to confess and repent? But we can not use this as a means of carrying a grudge. Although I forgive when forgiveness is asked, I should not allow this to interfere with my Christian duties of loving others nor should I allow it to interfere with my work in the Church.