

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Breaking Bread

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Abby will start PT soon and Steve has two procedures scheduled for his back this week. Wanye and Cathy Ezell, Lois MacAlvain (Gale Larson's mother) needs prayers for recovery from a stroke, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe, Hans, for his safety and that fishing season will improve.

Prayers Answered: The Reeds grandson, Caleb was released from the hospital and sent home. Praise God for answered prayers!

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Hans is in Dillingham. Teri Douthit and the Whitrock family are traveling . Jacob Smith is traveling until the end of August.

Door Knocking: Those interested in helping knock doors in August, please see Bill Beebe.

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

Today's Scripture: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." **Acts 2:41-42 (KJV)**

Today's Wisdom: "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled." **Proverbs 9:5 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 55

Record: 96

CONTACT INFORMATION

ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell (907) 373-5583 ed@churchofchristwasilla.com
Hans Nicholson (907) 230-2969 hnichs@gmail.com

DEACONS:

Joe Murdock (907) 715-0089 montana2189@hotmail.com
Wayne Ezell (907) 414-0613 nytman09@yahoo.com
Phillip Kelly (907) 632-1118 affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com

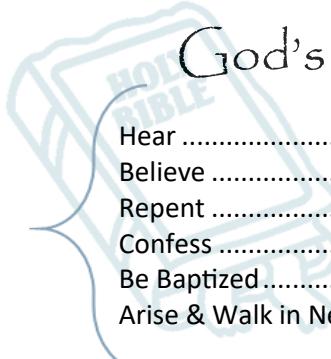
EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe (907) 841-9261 bill@churchofchristwasilla.com

July 15th, 2018 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ AT WASILLA

God's Plan of Salvation

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- 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

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Four Things The Early Church Was Devoted To:

Our pattern for the church today is exemplified by the early church. We know that what they did, how they worshiped and conducted themselves was acceptable to God. Therefore, in order for us to be confident in our practices today we should look to them for guidance. In Acts, Luke tells us four things that the early church devoted themselves to: *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."* **Acts 2:42 (KJV)**

These four things, 1) The Apostles Doctrine, 2) Fellowship, 3) Braking Bread, and 4) Prayer are things that we should be doing as a congregation today. But what do these mean? What does it mean to devote ourselves to the apostles doctrine, or to fellowship, or to breaking of bread, or to prayer? Over the next few weeks, we will look into these to determine how we should be conducting ourselves today.

Breaking of Bread: To Christians, breaking bread means much more than just eating a meal. It is, of course, reference to our remembrance of that last meal that Jesus had with His apostles the night that He was betrayed. They had just finished the Passover Meal when Jesus told them that He would not eat anymore with them until He ate in His Kingdom. Luke tells us the story as follows: "And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, *With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.* And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, *Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.* And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, *This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.* Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, *This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*" **Luke 22:14-20 (KJV)**

Notice what happened according to Luke. Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and had it divided among them. Then He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying that this is My body which is given for you. After having them eat the bread which He had broken up and passed out, He had them drink from the cup, from which He had divided among them earlier. From this verse we can understand that Jesus divided the fruit of the vine and the bread among those participating in this memorial. Because of this, we can surmise that they did not use a single loaf, but ate what Jesus had broken and passed out. Neither did they drink from a single cup, but from the cup that was divided among them prior to the memorial taking place. What Luke teaches us in these verses is that the participants in the memorial ate bread that represented Jesus's body and drank fruit of the vine that represented His blood.

By: Bill Beebe

And that both of these were divided prior to participating. Therefore, it is ok today to participate in this memorial using multiple pieces of bread and multiple cups. That is what they seemed to do according to Luke.

We also can derive from the Bible when the memorial was observed by the early church. Listen to Luke again: *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."* **Acts 20:7 (KJV)** Note that Luke says; "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread....". The reason that they came together was to break bread, to observe the memorial that Jesus had set up on the Passover before His death. And while they were together, Paul took advantage of their gathering to preach to them. We participate in this memorial today on the first day of the week, and since every week has a first day, we do so each and every week. There is no Biblical support for doing it any other way. We can not point to a single instance where the early church observed the memorial once a month, or twice a year. What we see is that they did it on the first day of the week.

While we must self examine ourselves to make sure that we don't eat and drink the memorial in an unacceptable way or unworthily (1 Cor 11:23-29), the memorial itself is a time to remember what Jesus did for us. We should examine ourselves prior to or after the memorial, not during it. During it we should concentrate on the sacrifice of Jesus, His torture, His death, His resurrection, His ascension and His return. It is all about Him and nothing about us. This is what Jesus Himself tells us. Read 1 Corinthians 11:24-25. Jesus tells us here to do this in "remembrance" of Him.

So, to be able to know that our worship is acceptable to God, we must hold tightly to the examples we have from the early church. In breaking of bread, the memorial that Jesus Himself set up to help us remember His sacrifice, we must do it correctly and in the right attitude. It must be observed only on the first day of the week, and since each week has a first day it is appropriate to do it every week on the first day. We must examine ourselves prior to and after but not during the memorial. During the memorial, we must concentrate on Jesus, His sacrifice and not on ourselves or anything else. Doing it this way will help us follow, as closely as possible, the instructions of Jesus and the examples set by the early church.