

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Plans!

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Cody Riley he is facing some difficult times, Linda Cline, and Peggy .

Prayers Answered: Abby is recovering well, but still needs prayers. Danesa's parents are doing much better but still recovering. Continue to pray for them.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers, Paul and Alice Stone are traveling. Eddie and Susan Maxwell are also traveling. Phillip and Jennifer Kelly are traveling.

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

Today's Scripture: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." **Jeremiah 29:11-13 (ESV)**

Today's Wisdom: "May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!" **Psalms 20:4 (ESV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 88/62 Record: 101

For more detail on the sick and travelers, please go to the web site.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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December 9th, 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: 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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Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Plans!

There is a country song that I listen to on occasion. I don't remember the title or even who sings it, but the phrase that I like about it is "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans". The thought is that the plans we make are often not what God has in mind for us. However it is important that we make plans. And all of us do it, some more extensive or detailed than others. We plan to buy a new vehicle, or some toy that we have wanted such as a new snow machine or ATV. We plan for our children's future by saving money for their education or helping them finish high school and get a job or join the military. We plan for our retirement, and we plan for our death by getting life insurance so that our family will not be saddled with an expensive funeral and no funds to pay for it.

What we don't always understand is that God has plans for us as well. In **Isaiah 25:1 (NASB)** we are told "*O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.*" Isaiah is telling us that God formed His plans long ago. And we know that to be true, before the foundations of the world He planned for our salvation because of Jesus's statement in **Matthew 25:34 (ESV)** "*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'*" And in His wisdom, He planned that the righteous would be in Christ, read **Ephesians 1:3-4 (NASB)** "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love*".

The problem we have is that we can't always see what God's plans for us are. Consider the Apostle Paul. He was on a fast track to Jewish stardom. He tells us in **Philippians 3:4-6 (KJV)** "*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:⁵ Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;⁶ Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*" He also tells us that he was educated by Gamaliel a teacher of the law honored by all Israel and a member of the Sanhedrin. In **Acts 22:3 (ESV)** Paul says, "*I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.*" Paul was on a fast track for a position in the Sanhedrin himself, but God had other plans for him and his life changed in a flash of light on the road to Damascus. And Paul would later say; "*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of*

By: Bill Beebe

Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ," **Philippians 3:7-8 (KJV)**

Paul traded a life that was planned for material success for one filled with ridicule and persecution. Instead of being considered a star to the Jews, he was considered a traitor and worse because he taught Gentiles. All we have to do is look at how the Jews treated him at almost every city he visited on his missionary journeys. Consider Thessalonica, the Jews there rejected his teachings and when Paul went to Berea and began to teach they traveled there to harass him. In fact Paul himself would eventually say "*Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*" **2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (KJV)**

So as we go through our lives and make plans, we need to consider what God's plans for us might be. We know that His plans for us include spreading the Gospel. Jesus told us this in **Mark 16:15-16 (KJV)** when Mark records this "*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" We also know that His plans for us include loving Him and each other because of what Matthew records for us in **Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV)** "*And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*" And we know that His plans include caring for those who are in need because of Jesus's instructions Matthew 25:31-46.

Let us be sure that the plans we make for our lives include those God has for us. Not doing so is risky to say the least, and we may find ourselves in the position that Saul of Tarsus was prior to his conversion when Jesus told him that "*It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*" Acts 26:14