

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Pride

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Duane Cline surgery went well. Thad Douthitt is being deployed pray for his safety. Peggy will have surgery to fuse the Left SI joint on June 14..

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Hans is in Dillingham, pray for his safety. Tom and Debra are traveling. Mary Ann is traveling. Charles and Nicole will begin traveling June 1. Becca and Darlene are traveling. Tom and Debra are traveling. Pray that they all remain safe.

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

Today's Scripture: "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

Mark 7:21-23 (KJV)

Wisdom for Today: "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. **Proverbs 29:23 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 76/61 Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EVANGELIST

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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:	5PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

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

Pride

We all know that pride is something that causes the downfall of people. If fact, it is pride that causes a person to decide that there is no God. **Psalm 10:4 (ESV)** tells us that *“In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, ‘There is no God.’”* Jesus tells us that pride along with other things defiles a person; *“And he said, ‘What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’”* **Mark 7:20-23 (ESV)** However, Paul lets us know that there is a time and a place for pride. Paul had pride, not in himself but in the Corinthians; *“I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.”* **2 Corinthians 7:4 (ESV)** His pride was not in himself or what he had done there, but in the Christians in Corinth who had responded positively to a letter that he had written them resulting in their repentance.

We can have pride in the accomplishments of the congregation here in Wasilla. Not in our own work, but in the increase that God has given us and the things that we have been able to do for the kingdom because of that increase. About 19 or so years ago when a few families began the church of Christ at Wasilla, our attendance was only about 10 –15 or less. Now it averages in the 80’s, and even on Sunday evenings and Wednesday nights the attendance is generally in the 60’s. Because of these numbers we can host a Vacation Bible School and an Area Wide Singing which we just did this past week. We have come a long way, and we can have some pride in that.

But there is so much more to do. There are tens of thousands of souls in the Mat-Su Valley and the majority of them do not attend worship services. We can truly understand Jesus when he said; *“ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”* **John 4:35 (KJV)** The field is truly ripe for harvest. We need to accelerate our evangelism program. We are having bible studies outside the scheduled worship services, and that is good. But we need to have more! We need to reach out to the those who visit us, especially those who have no church affiliation. We hope to begin this this week, as we ask you to make at least one phone contact per week to a visitor. We also need to develop a better benevolence program. We do help people on a case by case basis, both members and non-members. But we need to look at ways that we can improve that and reach out to those in need. I hope to get a hospital visitation program started soon as well. And we will conduct another outreach effort this fall. So there are activities that we all can participate in that will result in an increase given by God.

However, there is another aspect of pride that is destructive, this is the pride

By: Bill Beebe

that Jesus was referring to in Mark 7:22. This is pride in your self. It is a pride that David was referring in Psalms 10:4 to that will eventually lead a person to the conclusion that there is no God. This type of pride can creep us on us slowly and before we know it we are mired in the awful mess of sin. One of the ways that pride manifest itself in its early stages is having a “thin skin”. When we get upset because of what someone else said, especially when they are criticizing something we said or have done it is usually our pride that is hurt. This often happens even when the criticism is constructive. The result is too often that we strike back with words that are intended to “put them in their place” or we decide to stop trying to do the work we had been doing. Paul gave Peter positive criticism when he dealt with Peters withdrawal from the gentile Christians when James and others came from Jerusalem. In **Galatians 2:11-12 (ESV)** we read *“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.”* When we begin to feel hurt because of what someone says, especially when they are trying to improve the operation of the church, or encourage us to evangelize or study more it is pride that is building. And it is something that we need to stop.

So the next time you get your feelings hurt a little, stop and consider is this brother or sister trying to help me become a stronger Christian and a more active soldier in God’s kingdom. If so, you need to swallow your pride and take the criticism as it is intended. If it is not, and the comments were intended to be hurtful, it is time to talk to your brother or sister. Remember Jesus’s directions in **Matthew 5:23-24 (KJV)** *“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.”*

As we grow, the incidents of hurting one another’s feelings are likely to increase and we need to guard against it. We need to begin now working to keep our pride in check so that when we feel a little hurt because of what someone else has said or done, we deal with it as Christians. First look at ourselves, did we do something that deserved those comments. Next, consider the comments themselves; are they constructive and can I learn from them or are they destructive and designed to hurt. If they are destructive, talk with your brother or sister and work the issue out before it becomes something that festers and causes divisiveness in the congregation. Doing these will allow you to have the peace of God that passes understanding that Paul speaks about (Philippians 4:7). And it will allow us to continue to grow as a family of God, working out our differences and eliminating pride from our lives.