

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Growth

## 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, Dasnesa has joined him there. Eddie and Susan are traveling. 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.

**Men' Business Meeting:** There will be a Men's Business Meeting next Sunday, July 16th immediately following the morning worship services. Agenda items are due in to Ed by the end of service this evening.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:" **Ephesians 4:15 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." **Psalms 92:12 (KJV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 67/52 Our Record: 107**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## Growth

Have you ever watched a baby grow? To the parents it seems that they are not growing very fast at all. But to the rest of us, who see them once a week or less, it seems that they are growing like the dandelions in my yard. Parents get pleasure out of watching their children grow, even if it seems awfully slow at times. It gives us joy when we see them crawl, then walk and run. It causes a little concern when they take the car out by themselves for the first time. Then we beam with pride when they marry and our first grandchild is born.

Growth is something that is universal in the living creatures in God's great universe. Everything either grows or dies, nothing can stay static and live long. And this is true of our spiritual life. Our spiritual lives will either grow or die, there is no in-between. They grow or die the same way our physical bodies do, by feeding and exercising them or not. When you provide the proper nourishment and exercise for your body it will grow, when you don't it will wither and die. We understand that a baby needs milk while small, but then needs to transition to solid foods to continue to grow. This is the same with our spiritual life. Paul in writing to the church at Corinth told them: "But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ." <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **1 Corinthians 3:1-2 (ESV)** In this case, the Christians there were still "infants in Christ" and had not grown. Paul said that he gave them milk and not solid food because they were not ready for the more mature teachings and they still weren't. And the writer of Hebrews, inspired by the Holy Spirit, told the Hebrew Christians that they should be ready for mature food, but they hadn't grown to that point yet. So they still needed the milk of the word. Listen to his warning: "<sup>11</sup> About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing." <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child." <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." **Hebrews 5:11-14 (ESV)** Infants in Christ can not always distinguish good from evil. This is a trait that is developed by spiritual growth, by eating the solid food of the word and through constant practice. It is important to note here that the writer says that it is both taking the solid food of the word and constant practice that allows us to distinguish between good and evil. Those who live a spiritual life only on milk are "unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child". It is only by consuming the meat of the work combined with practice that we grow into mature Christians.

Because of this, it is important that we understand what is milk and what is meat in the word. The writer of Hebrews gives us some direction on this in

By: Bill Beebe

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)** "<sup>1</sup> Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God," <sup>2</sup> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment." <sup>3</sup> And this will we do, if God permit." Here we are told that the foundation of the doctrine of Christ is <sup>1</sup> repentance from dead works, <sup>2</sup> faith toward God, <sup>3</sup> the doctrine of baptisms, <sup>4</sup> the doctrine of laying on of hands, <sup>5</sup> the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead and <sup>6</sup> the doctrine of eternal judgment. These things are the foundation of the principles of the doctrine of Christ, they are milk and not meat. And yet many of us don't even understand them well. Most of us will have a good grasp of repentance, faith, resurrection and eternal judgement. And we understand physical baptism well, but when it comes to the baptism of the Holy Ghost some of us still have no true understanding of that. In addition, most of us have limited understanding of the doctrine of laying on of hands. But what is it in the word of God that is meat?

Peter gave us some direction on this in **2 Peter 1:1-4 (KJV)** "<sup>1</sup> Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:" <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord," <sup>3</sup> According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" <sup>4</sup> Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." We grow through knowledge of Jesus. That is where we get all things that pertain unto life and godliness. But then he goes on in the next few verses and tells us: "<sup>5</sup> And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;" <sup>6</sup> And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;" <sup>7</sup> And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." <sup>8</sup> For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." <sup>9</sup> But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." <sup>10</sup> Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." <sup>11</sup> For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." **2 Peter 1:5-11 (KJV)**

We need to be taking the meat of the word now and not still nursing on the milk. And we need to be exercising our spiritual bodies. Let's grow as Peter instructed. This growth will come through constant study and exercise. Take the meat of the word and then practice it in your lives, and grow!