

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Principles

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Alice Stone is being referred to UW Cancer Research Center for assessment, please pray for her! Mia, Shila, George (Danesa's family). Thad Douthitt is being deployed pray for his safety. Neil Kelly is in rehab and is walking some, but both she and Charles still need prayers. Wayne Ezell continues to need our prayers.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Hans is in Dillingham, pray for his safety and for a successful season.

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

Today's Scripture: "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, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit." **Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." **Psalms 16:11 (ESV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 71/50: Our Record: 107

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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..."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Principles

The website Dictionary.com defines principles as ¹ an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct, ² a fundamental, primary or general law or truth from which others are derived, ³ a fundamental doctrine or tenet; a distinctive ruling opinion, ⁴ a personal or specific basis of conduct or management, ⁵ guiding sense of the requirements and obligations of right conduct, and ⁶ an adopted rule or method for application in action. These all can be summarized as meaning that principles are a set of standards by which a person uses to guide his or her actions.

All people have some set of principles that they live their lives by. The principles that some live by may not seem to be very strong to some others, but the fact remains that all people have some sort of principle that they believe in and attempt to live by. We as Christians have principles that should be clearly visible to those living a worldly life. The principles that we have, have been given to us by Jesus and the



Holy Spirit through the inspired writers. We do not drink alcohol recreationally, we do not lie, we do not swear, we are dependable and our word is our bond. We love our families and respect the government. We attend worship services as often as is possible, and worship in the way we see described in the New Testament. We honor our parents and guide our children in the way that they should be guided, giving them rules to live by that will insure that they, too, have principles by which to live.

I would propose that our guiding principle is defined for us by Jesus himself. When He was challenged by the Pharisees concerning the great commandment His response was **Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)** ³⁷ *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.* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

Love of God and our neighbors should be the primary principle that we live our lives as Christians by. If it is it will cause us to have some secondary principles as well. These will be:

1. We will be obedient to the commandments that have been set down for us
2. We will encourage our neighbors to become Christians.

By: Bill Beebe

Being obedient to the commandments will result in our growth as Christians. Peter discusses this growth when he wrote **2 Peter 1:5-11 (KJV)** ⁵ *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;* ⁶ *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;* ⁷ *And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.* ⁸ *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.* ⁹ *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.* ¹⁰ *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:* ¹¹ *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

Our growth as Christians will cause us to understand that those without Christ are lost and are headed to an eternity in hell unless we step up and warn them. I heard what was said to be a quote by Pen of the Pen and Teller Magic group a while ago. He is at the least an agnostic and probably an atheist, so this statement takes on even more impact than it would coming from others. Whether it is really a statement he made, I do not know; but it will allow me to make a point. He was supposed to have said something along the lines of "If you truly believe that there is a hell and I am going to spend eternity there and you have the truth to prevent that, how much do you have to hate me to keep you from sharing that truth with me?"

The point is that if we have as our guiding principle the great commandments and we refuse to share the gospel with our neighbors we either don't love God enough to keep His commandments or we hate our neighbors so much that we would rather see them go to hell than to speak to them about the Gospel. The last commandment that Jesus gave us just before He ascended into Heaven was **Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)** ¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* ¹⁹ *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* ²⁰ *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* We are to go to the world, which begins just outside our door step, teach them the Gospel, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and then teach them all the commandments that Jesus has given to us through His words and by the writings of those men inspired by the Holy Ghost.

I want to live my life based on the guiding principle of the Great Commandments. What guiding principle are you living by?