

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Fear and Faith

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Alice Stone is being referred to UW Cancer Research Center for assessment, please pray for her! 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. Pray for Frank Barruetez, he is facing a major life decision.

**Pray Especially for Brandon and Vanessa as they begin their lives together. May they always understand that God must be a part of their family.**

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:" **Romans 11:20 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes." **Psalms 36:1 (ESV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday 77/63: Our Record: 107**

*For more detail, please go to the web site.*

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August 11th 2019 BULLETIN for the

# Church of Christ AT WASILLA

## 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:

2061 N. Merciful Circle  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
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Visit our website at:

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

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## Fear and Faith

Growing up in the deep south in the 1950's and 1960's, I remember having revivals that would last 10 days to two weeks. During these revivals there was always a few sermons on the reality of Hell as well the certainty of Heaven. When the sermons on Hell were given the minister always used fear as a tool. And it worked well for preteen and early teen aged boys. We were impressionable and the idea of being in a place where "And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." **Revelation 20:13-15 (ESV)** Some of those old time preachers could almost make you feel the heat and smell the brimstone coming from that lake of fire. We should not be mistaken, the Bible tells us that Hell is a terrible place. But one thing that I do not remember hearing about is the total absence of God. The fire and brimstone will be terrible enough, but the thought of the total absence of God should cause each of us to tremble with terror at the thought of going there for eternity.

On the other hand, they always preached a few sermons on heaven. Just as the old time preachers were experts at making you feel the heat of hell, they were well able to make you feel the wonders of heaven. I remember them talking about streets of gold, and the river of living water running through it. But no matter how well they described the wonders and joys of heaven, the thing that they always spoke of was that God and Jesus would be there. Just the thought of being in the presence of God and being able to talk with Jesus was enough to make most of us want to go there. During the sermon, they wove faith into the lesson. Letting us know that faith was required for a person to be saved and then eventually go to heaven with God and Jesus.

So both fear and faith were used by those preachers to encourage people to become Christians. We need to ask what role does fear and faith play in our own salvation today? There are two ways to understand fear, it can be a feeling of being afraid of someone or something or it can be a feeling of respect for someone or something Both of these meanings can be seen in the Bible. Jesus told his disciples "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." **Matthew 10:28 (ESV)** This passage clearly discusses fear as being afraid. Most of us are afraid of someone who can, and will, kill us. But Jesus tells us that we would be better off being afraid of the one who can destroy our soul and body in hell. So there is reason to be afraid of God, He is the only one who can commit our souls to Hell. And for the greatest percent of humanity that is exactly what will happen. Jesus tells us "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and

By: Bill Beebe

broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" **Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)** So for most of mankind there is a reason to be afraid of God. However, for those few who find the narrow way and straight gate, the fear we have for God should be respect. We respect Him because of what He has done for us. He created this universe, he created us knowing that we would reject Him and pursue wickedness. And in doing that, He planned for our eventual salvation. He sent Jesus to die for us, to pay the price for our sins that we could never pay. And He completed His plan by raising Jesus from the grave, then sending the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles and others who wrote the Bible so that we could understand His will for us. If this is not enough for us to respect Him, He has prepared a place for us to live forever with Him.

Faith, on the other hand, as described in the Bible is to be understood in only one way. We are given a definition of it by the Holy Ghost as He inspired the writer of the Hebrews to write "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)** It is through grace that we are saved through faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" **Ephesians 2:8 (KJV)** The faith that saves us is not a passive faith, but one of action. Hebrews 11 is filled with men and women whose faith caused them to obey God and to follow through with action. Abraham's faith caused him to leave his home on only God's instruction. His faith also caused him to offer his son at the request of God. The Israelites faith caused them to march around Jericho and its walls fell down. James confirms that the faith that is acceptable to God is one that never waivers. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." **James 1:6 (KJV)** It is also a faith that is combined with obedience. "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" **James 2:20 (KJV)**

So we need to remember, being afraid of Hell and the one who can send us there is a type of fear that we should have. Respecting God is also something that we ought to do. We need to have respect for what He has done for us, for His love, His willingness to sacrifice Jesus and His willingness to forgive us even though we sin over and over again. And we should have a faith that never waivers and that is strong enough that demands obedience.

Fear and faith, Both are necessary for us to be the type of Christian that God expects us to be.