

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Growth

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Pray for Abby St Clair concerning her upcoming surgery. Terri Douthitt , Peggy Beebe needs our prayers. Pray for Herb and Jean Watson.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

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

Gospel Meeting: Our gospel meeting will continue through Wednesday October 2. Invite your neighbors, and plan to attend.

Evangelism: There are several bible studies ongoing. Check the website and attend if you can.

Today's Scripture: "But the word of God grew and multiplied."
Acts 12:24 (KJV)

Wisdom for Today: "They would do the right thing and because they did, they would grow stronger." **Job 17:9 (CEV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 76/47: Our Record: 107
For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell (907) 373-5583 ed@churchofchristwasilla.com
Hans Nicholson (907) 230-2969 hnichs@gmail.com
Paul Stone (907) 491-1170 good_nooz@yahoo.com

DEACONS:

Joe Murdock (907) 715-0089 montana2189@hotmail.com
Phillip Kelly (907) 632-1118 affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com
Logan Decker (907) 244-1777 logan.decker9@gmail.com

EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe (907) 841-9261 bill@churchofchristwasilla.com

September 29th, 2019 BULLETIN for the



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
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Growth

Isn't it just amazing how fast some things grow and how slow other things grow? It is also amazing how those that are closest to things fail to notice their growth or lack of growth. I was talking to Carla and Beverly last Sunday evening after services and noticed that Beverly had her baby with her. However she wasn't exactly a little baby any longer. The last time I noticed her, she was not sitting up or even turning over herself. This time though, she was an active baby able to remain upright in her mother's arms and looking around. It seemed as if she had grown extremely fast to me. On the other hand, I suspect that Beverly hadn't noticed the change to be as radical as it seemed to me. After all Beverly is with her every day, so she probably doesn't notice the growth as much as those of us who are not around so much do.

On the other hand, if you have ever been around redwood trees, they seem to hardly grow at all. If you went to see them when you were young and went back again as an adult, the trees seem to all be about the same size. In fact you would probably be hard pressed to identify any growth at all. Bristle Cone Pine are among the oldest living things on earth. Some of those are over 2,000 years old. They are not a very impressive tree, kind of knarred and crooked and most look close to dying. Unless you are a scientist studying them, you would not notice any growth at all even if you saw them as a preteen and then again as a senior citizen.

Our growth as an individual Christian and as a church can be like either of these. We can grow so quickly that everyone who knows us, or visits us notices it, or we can grow so slow that no one can see any difference in our zeal for Jesus, our love for one another and our dedication to spreading the Gospel. In this way, we would be like the bristle cone pine, barely hanging on to our spiritual life. Or we can be like a baby, growing so fast that a person seeing us this month then in a couple months from now will notice the change. A change in our knowledge of the Bible, a change in our love and concern for the lost and a change in our love for each other.

Unlike the babies in our congregation, or the bristle cone pine; we can determine how fast we grow as an individual and as a church. Our individual growth depends on how much and how often we feed our spirit. We can either starve to death, or near death, or we can flourish. To flourish we must get into God's word on a daily basis. And not just to read it, but to study it. If we do not do this, we will wind up like the bristle cone pine. A Christian in name only with no perceptible growth at all. But the more we get into it and study it the faster we will see our spiritual life grow. And we will grow in other ways as well. Peter tells us this **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*

By: Bill Beebe

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." And by this growth, we make our calling and election sure.

It will be then when we will begin to feel a real NEED to share the word with those closest to us and to those around us. To let them know how great forgiveness is, how wonderful the development of a true Christian is when one grows from a person of faith into a person who really understands and appreciates true love. This is what Jeremiah, the prophet felt like when he penned the following in **Jeremiah 20:9 (KJV)** *"⁹ Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."* Jeremiah felt a need to speak about God, it was such a need that he described it as a "burning fire in his bones". He was in the position that although he had decided not to speak about God, he did anyway because he needed to. His need to speak about God outweighed his earlier decision not to. When Peter and the other apostles were arrested by the Pharisees and were told not to speak about Jesus again, their response given by Peter was *"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."* **Acts 5:29 (KJV)** and they continued to preach and teach Jesus Christ as the Son of God, murdered by the Pharisees, raised by God and ascended into Heaven to be our advocate. Because of their real need to speak and their boldness, the apostles grew in courage and the church grew in numbers.

We can replicate this growth here in Wasilla if we do what was done in the first century. First each one of us must grow in our knowledge of the word, next we grow in love for God and one another. Then we need to see the world as Jesus did when He stated; *"³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. ³⁵ 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 4:34-35 (KJV) When we truly grow in love for God and our neighbors, and we see them as truly in need of Jesus and salvation we will not be able to keep ourselves from speaking out. There will be fire in our bones and it will force us to tell everyone we meet about the wonders of salvation and the true freedoms we have in God.