

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Definitions

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Wayne and Cathy, Peggy Beebe needs our prayers.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Carla, Weston, Bella and Bertie are in Tennessee.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program

Women's Study: The next women's study will be Saturday December 28th at 1:00 PM at the Building

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

Today's Scripture: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:" **Hebrews 12:28 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all *them that are* about him." **Psalms 89:7 (KJV)**

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

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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

Whose definitions are you using, yours or Gods?

All of us are used to defining things. We do it all the time, every day. And definitions are critical to the operation of everything that we do. In forestry we have to identify the trees we are working with, the problem is that some trees are known by two or three or even more names depending on the locale that they are growing in. For example, there is a tree in the south known as Bois d'arc (pronounced bodark arc). The same tree is also known as Osage Orange and Horse Apple. These names come from what it has been used as and what its' fruit looks like. The name Bois d'Arc is French for bow wood, it was the preferred wood for making bows by the Native Americans in the southeast US. The name Osage Orange comes from the fact that the Osage tribe used the heart wood from this tree as an orange dye for their clothing. When the heart wood is chipped up and soaked in water it produces a deep orange dye. The name Horse Apple comes from the appearance of its fruit, they look like large apples from a distance. Up close they look more like large oranges. The fruit are natural spider repellants. We used to put them in the crawl spaces and attics to keep spiders out of the houses. When speaking of this tree someone who knows it only by bois d'arc will not know what you are talking about when you call it Osage orange. This happens throughout the natural world, so biologists developed a system that allows everyone working with nature immediately know which plant or animal they are talking about. Consequently, the bois d'arc is known by scientists as *Maclura pomifera*,

Definitions are important to the Bible as well. It is critically important that we understand this, and we use the definitions that God intended and not what man may want the word or term to mean. A great example is the word "baptize". When the King James Version of the Bible was translated men had already put their own meaning to the Greek word "baptizo". Man's definition meant that a person was sprinkled with water or had water poured onto his or her head. So, not to annoy the king, the trans-

By: Bill Beebe

lators didn't translate the word. They just transliterated it and used the English word "baptize" where "baptizo" appeared. But God intended us to understand the true definition of the word "immerse or bury". So instead of sprinkling or pouring, the only proper way to baptize a person using God's definition is to fully immerse a person in water. Pouring or sprinkling do not meet the definition according to God.

There was a radio personality I used to listen to who called himself "The Bible Answer Man". One of his favorite statements was that "The Holy Spirit is not linguistically challenged, He says what He means and means what He says." So to truly be students of the Bible, and the Christians that God wants us to be, we must understand the meanings that God intended when we study the Bible.

We have to understand God's definition for the words that are critical to our salvation. We need to understand that the definition for "faith" means an active belief. Hebrews chapter eleven demonstrates this well. **Hebrews 11:7-8 (KJV)** tells us "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." We have to understand that the Greek words translated "Hope" means "to expect", or "to anticipate with pleasure" or "confidence". But man defines these differently. Man defines "faith" as simply "to believe", man defines "hope" more along the lines "to wish".

So whose definitions are you willing to place the future of your soul on? God's or Man's?