

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Living Hope

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Chris Aumick, Kenny Dearing . Wayne and Cathy, Peggy Beebe.

**Ladies' Retreat:** The Anchorage church of Christ will host a Ladies' Retreat March 20-21. The theme this year is 20/20 Vision Looking Upward. Speaker will be Maria Cox from Nikiski. Ladies' plan to attend.

**Lectureship:** The Alaska State Lectureship will be held on April 24-26,2020 at the Anchorage church of Christ on Debar Road this year. Registrations are due in by March 27, 2020. Check with Bill for more information.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Steve and Abby are in Juneau.

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

**Women's Study:** The women's study this month will be Saturday February 29, 2020, at 1:00 PM at the Building. All the women are encouraged to attend.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." **Romans 5:1-2 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD." **Psalm 31:24 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 70/48: 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:

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*

## Living Hope

It has been said that the Gospel writer John is the apostle of love and Paul is the apostle of faith and Peter is the apostle of hope. Peter specifically talks about a living hope. I find this to be an interesting idea since hope only seems to be a word that means waiting for something. But is that all that this hope means? Let us examine this living hope that Peter mentions in 1 Peter.

1 Peter 1:3-5 NKJV

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **LIVING HOPE** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

So my initial thought is how does one live out hope? I think it is important to first understand how hope is defined scripturally. Biblical hope means much more than what man has mindlessly limited it down to or over zealously used it. In some instances hope today is used as no more than wishing and in other cases has been made to seem so far beyond our comprehension that it is impossible to understand. Yet Peter tells the first century Christians and us to have a living hope! Hope according to the Strong's concordance is to anticipate usually with pleasure, expectation or confidence-faith hope. Isn't that interesting a faithful hope. Just like everything in Scripture, faith is always going to be connected to the words that are pleasing to God. Ephesians 4:4-6 NKJV *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

Since we now understand what hope is biblically and Peter mentions a living hope, a question I have is with a living hope is there a dead hope? Guy N Woods in his commentary on 1 Peter writes when He (Christ) allowed himself to fall into the hands of the Romans and to die on the cross, the hope of the disciples was blasted and their faith failed. Peter with his faith gone, returned to his nets John 21:3. Sadly for too many when things start to get tough, they will give up. This attitude or mindset must be defeated. But without a proper understanding of what we hope in, our hope can easily die and we go back to doing what we did

By: Joe Murdock

before we had hope in Christ. Friends that only leads to empty promises and a life full of sadness. Remember what Paul said in Ephesians 5:6-10 NKJV *"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."* Empty words come from those who have a dead hope which is no hope at all! We must continue to press onward towards the goal that is set before us and not allow the snares of this world to trip us up.

Finally as we have defined hope the way God would have us to understand it, let us now live it out. That is what God would have us to do and what Peter means when he says to have a living hope. A hope that is not dead but one that is thriving and producing fruit in ourselves and in others. What an encouragement it is, to be able to share in a living hope with our church family. Romans 8:24-25 NKJV *"For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."* Are we willing to eagerly wait for the coming of Christ? Not idly but full of faithful anticipation and excitement for the time when we are redeemed! 1 Peter 4:12-14 NKJV *"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified."*

