

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Plea to the Church

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**NOTICE:** The Elders will reconsider postponing our public worship and Bible Studies for April 19. Their decision will be sent to each member by text and e-mail. We will continue with the virtual Bible Studies and Worship should the public activities continue to be suspended. I will send emails out through the website. You can also check the website for information as well. Those who haven't signed onto the website should do so to insure that you get the notices we send out.

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

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:" **1 Timothy 6:20 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass." **Psalms 37:5 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 26: Our Record: 107

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

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April 12th 2020 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 sal-

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MEETING TIMES

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes:	10AM
AM Worship:	11AM
PM Worship:	5PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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### 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](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

*Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected*

## Guarding the Gospel

In **1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (KJV)** Paul discusses what was some of the earliest movement toward denominational creation that we know of. In this passage Paul says: *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"* Paul begins this particular section of his letter urging unity. In **John 17:11 (KJV)** Jesus prayed for unity among those whom God had given him; *"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are."* Then Paul made the statement "For it has been declared to me ...that there are contentions among you." Paul recognized these divisions that were beginning to form as being detrimental to the church and contrary to the desires of Jesus. He then states that he was glad that he personally didn't baptize many people. Not that baptism wasn't commanded nor that it wasn't necessary for salvation. Paul himself wrote about the importance of baptism. In **1 Corinthians 12:13 (KJV)** Paul tells the Corinthians *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* And Paul was commanded to be baptized by Ananias; **Acts 22:16 (KJV)** *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* But what Paul was concerned about in 1 Corinthians 1:12-17 was the tendency for men to follow other men and to divide into groups. Paul understood the danger that this posed and warned the Christians at Corinth to avoid divisions caused by trying to identify with men.

But this is not the only place that the Bible indicated that men were leaning toward division rather than unity in the earliest Christian churches. John, the apostle that Jesus loved, faced division in the early church as well. But in John's case, the division was directed toward him. **3 John 1:9-10 (KJV)** *"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."* Here we have the apostle John being opposed by Diotrephes. This man went so far as to refuse to receive John and those with him (the brethren), then disfellowshipped those who did receive them! So even in the very earliest days of the church, the danger of divisions was real and the move away from the true gospel was already underway.

## Preacher: Tom Betti Article By: Bill Beebe

Since divisions in the church seemed to begin even when Paul and John were teaching, how do we guard against them now? Paul gives us a clue to this in his letter to Timothy. In **2 Timothy 2:1-2 (KJV)** Paul tells Timothy this *"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* In fairly clear language Paul told Timothy to guard the gospel. He tells Timothy to be strong in grace, and what you have heard me teach in front of others who can be witnesses, commit it to other faithful men who will also teach the same thing to others. In other words, Timothy guard the gospel message and teach it to others who will also guard it and teach more who will then guard it, and on and on. We have an obligation today to guard the message, to keep it from being polluted. Then we have the responsibility to pass that unpolluted message to others who will, in turn, pass it along to even more. Doing this will help reduce the divisions that have created denominations through the past 2,000 years.

But what do we do now with the number of denominations that we already have? One count in 2001 indicated that there were then 33,830 denominations around the world, and there are probably even more today. First we must recognize that there is only one church planned by God, built by Jesus and opened by Peter. That is the church described in the New Testament, the church of Christ (Romans 16:16). The rest are all just groups masquerading as the church. Some of them do wonderful things, but Jesus himself warned us about them in **Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV)** *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* So regardless of their good works, they will never be in the Kingdom and therefore are not the church discussed in the Bible because they were never known by Jesus. All their good works will not buy them entry into the kingdom of Heaven. Next we must teach the unadulterated gospel of Jesus. When we do this we will be despised by the denominational groups. They will despise us for our stance on baptism, they will despise us on our stance on the possibility of losing our salvation, they will ridicule us because our stance on a Capella singing, and they will persecute us on our stance on women preachers and leaders (Elders and Deacons). However we must guard the gospel and pass along the true gospel to others who will guard it after our time is up and who will then pass it on to still others who will do the same thing. This is what has happened for the last 2,000 years and what must happen until Jesus returns.