

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Is God Essential

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: David Cline injured his hand in an accident. Brandon, Vanessa, Josiah; Kenny Dearing; Wayne and Cathy; Peggy Beebe.

We will begin having Sunday evening services again next Sunday June 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Hans is in Dillingham for fishing season.

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

Today's Scripture: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." **Exodus 20:3 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." **Job 31:6 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 26: 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 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:

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Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Is God Essential

Recently we have all heard about essential and non-essential industries. During the height of the Covid-19 run here in Alaska the Governor, as did Governors in other states, declared that all non-essential industries be closed. The essential industries were allowed to continue operations with some modifications such as plexi-glass barriers at the checkout counters and wearing gloves and face masks. What I found really interesting and sometimes disturbing was what was declared as essential or non-essential industries. Here in Alaska, churches were declared non-essential and our operations were suspended then we were allowed to resume operations with very difficult restrictions such as the number of people who could assemble at once. However, liquor stores and marijuana stores were declared essential and were permitted to continue operations, almost unimpeded. So...the immediate question that comes to mind is "Is God essential?"

The essential things in our lives seem to get done somehow. When we are really busy we always find some way to do the things we consider as essential, even if we don't think of it that way. We always find time to eat during the day, because we all know that we cannot continue to work effectively if we do not eat. So no matter how busy we get, we are able to find the time to eat. Many people today have gym memberships and regardless of how busy they are or how tired they may be they always find the time and energy to go and work out at the gym. Some of us enjoy fishing and/or hunting. When the seasons are open we have time to engage in these activities and we don't have any problem getting up at 4:00 or 5:00 AM in order to take advantage of the best hunting or fishing times. We often plan hunting trips or fishing trips weeks or months in advance. And when the time comes to go fishing or hunting we have the time and money blocked out to do these things. The same thing occurs with vacations. We plan for vacations well in advance, blocking off time from work and saving the money necessary to make sure that we can engage in this activity. And if we wake up with a headache or blocked sinuses, we take some over the counter medicines and continue with our plans.

But when it comes to the church and God, things are a lot different. Rarely do we set aside time to study our bibles. Getting up in time to get ready for Bible class is just too difficult, after all we have worked all week and we are just too tired to get up that early. And too often we do not determine before hand how much we will give, just giving whatever we have in our pockets (or more likely, only a part of that) at the time. We may make sure we go to worship on Sunday mornings if we don't have a headache or the sniffles, or something else to do. But when it comes to Sunday or Wednesday evenings we just don't have the time or energy to go and support the activities of the church. When the church conducts evangelistic activities on Saturdays or some evening during the

Sermon by: Tom Betti Article By: Bill Beebe

week, we are just too tired to participate or we have other plans and cannot make both activities, so we skip those that the church has planned and participate in the secular activities that we had planned with the family, or with people at work, or our high school or army buddies. In doing this we are in reality declaring God non-essential in our lives. But Jesus tells us that this shouldn't be the case. In **Matthew 10:37-38 (KJV)** we read; "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." Jesus wants us to be fully committed to Him. We cannot please Him nor the Father if we put more value on anything in our lives other than them. When we do that, we are essentially committing idolatry. There can be nothing in our lives more essential to us than God. If there is, that has become our idol. But that is not the only passage that deals with this idea of having God first in our lives. Jesus also told us in **Luke 9:57-62 (KJV)** this: "And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." If, after we have started on our Christian walk and we turn to look back at the world we left, we are not fit for God's kingdom. This is a really sobering thought, one that was taught clearly to Lot and his family as they fled Sodom and the cities on the plain. The angel warned them not to look back, but Lot's wife did look back at the home and life she was leaving and was turned into a pillar of salt.

God should be the most important and essential being in our life. Jesus clearly taught this when asked which is the great commandment. In answer he said "Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:35-40 (KJV)

Is God the most essential thing in your life, or is He non-essential to you? The answer to this question will likely determine your eternal destiny.