

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

**The Sword of the Spirit**

AM Sermon: Tom Betti

OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Tony Betti, Josiah, Helen Spicer, Bill and Peggy.

**Traveling/Working:** Wyatt Couch, Steve and Abby

**Radio Programs:** Listen to "Searching the scriptures", our weekly radio program on KMBQ 99.7 Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM.

**Today's Scripture:** "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

**Wisdom for Today:** "Gird thy sword upon *thy* thigh, O *most* mighty, With thy glory and thy majesty." Psalm 45:3 (KJV 1900)

PM Sermon: Michael Couch

Attendance Last Sunday -

For more information check our website at [www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

**EVANGELIST**

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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  
 Remain Faithful.....Matt 24:13; Rev 2:10; James 1:12

"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](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us

### The Sword of the Spirit

By Bill Beebe

There is a show on television which many of us have watched at one time or another. It is called “Forged in Fire”. Each episode begins with four contestants who are blacksmiths. They are given a set amount of time to forge a particular weapon. The shows have included some of the most well known swords from several periods in history and have included Japanese Katana’s which are widely considered one of the best, if not the very best, sword ever crafted. Other swords have included the Roman Gladius, carried by Roman soldiers; the medieval Crusader Sword, used by knights; and the Carolingian or Viking Sword. All of these weapons are both lethal weapons and works of art, but the most impressive thing about them is the edges that the contestants were able to put on the finished swords. These weapons were so sharp that they could slice through salmon hanging by the tail without causing the carcass to move at all. In other tests the weapons were able to slice through apples lined up on a table, and most impressive of all they were able to sever a pig carcass including slicing through the spine. Considering how sharp the modern versions of these weapons can be, it is no wonder that Paul would use them as an allegory of the Word of God.

In Ephesians 6:17 (KJV 1900) Paul refers to the word of God as the “sword of the Spirit” writing “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”. In Hebrews 4:12 (KJV 1900) He goes farther, actually telling us why the word of God is similar to a sword by writing “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” What may be the most important aspect of this passage is the fact that the word of God is so sharp, so well constructed that it is like a fine sword in its ability to cut. The word of God does not cut like a steel sword, but can divide the soul and the spirit of man and it cuts through the thoughts and intents of the human heart.



In Romans 1:16 (KJV 1900) Paul makes one of his more well known statements “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” This statement is one that cuts to the thoughts and intents of the heart. Are you

## go into the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

ashamed of the gospel of Christ, or more to the point are you ashamed of Christ and to be known as a Christian? So many of us today seem to be afraid to talk about Jesus to anyone. The statement that is occasionally heard around the dinner table is that we can discuss any topic except politics and religion, and while I don’t disagree with the exclusion of politics we should never be so timid as to eliminate the discussion of Christianity in any circumstance. It seems that we can talk to a total stranger about such inconsequential topics as the weather, sports, or even business. But when it comes to Jesus and the most important conversation we can have with anyone, the eternal destiny of their souls, we are so afraid that we will hurt their feelings or make them mad that we will not even bring this subject up. And if it happens to come up in a conversation, we often look for ways to change the subject as fast as we can.

Paul’s attitude though was just the opposite. He stated in Romans 1:13–15 (KJV 1900) “Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.” Paul considered it a debt that he owed to all men to preach the gospel of Christ. The word of God, which is the Bible, contains the gospel of Christ that was delivered to us by the Apostles being guided by the Holy Spirit. It is this book, the most important book ever written, that we should be using to guide our daily lives and our interactions with others.

It is in this book that we find the teachings that can divide our thoughts and intents. Peter succinctly teaches this so well in 2 Peter 1:5–9 (KJV 1900) “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” Let us sharpen our swords, and be bold enough to use them in our daily conversations. Because souls depend on it.

### Schedule of Events

**There will be a Men’s Meeting Sunday February 6, 2022. All the men are encouraged to attend.** Agenda items are due in this evening by the end of service.