

## Schedule of Events

**Men's Meeting** Today, June 5, 2022, following the morning worship services.

**VBS** will be August 1-5, from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Ask Joe how you can help. The topic will be the Beatitudes. Classes for all ages, including an adult class. A door knocking will be conducted prior to the VBS.

**Gospel Meeting at Rose Street:** Terry Starling will be speaking on Godly Families and Raising Godly Children. This will be held over two weekends June 18-19 and June 25-26. Check with Joe or Bill for times.

## Think on These Things Philippians 4:8

### **Psalm 66:16 (NKJV)**

"Come *and* hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul."

## Our Family News

**Pray for:** Cody Riley, Mike Couch's sister, Josiah, Helen Spicer, and Peggy.

**Traveling/Working:** Tom Betti, Wyatt Couch, Ben Gillespie

**Today's Scripture:** "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Matthew 11:15 (KJV)

**Wisdom for Today:** "But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. Psalm 4:3 (KJV)

**AM Sermon:** George Jensen Attendance last Sunday: 65  
PM Sermon: George Jensen

**Radio Programs:** Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program on KMBQ/99.7FM, on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM. For more information, check our website at [www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

### **Evangelist**

George Jensen: (907) 203-5059, [george@churchofchristwasilla.com](mailto:george@churchofchristwasilla.com)

Bill Beebe: (907) 841-9261, [bill@churchofchristwasilla.com](mailto:bill@churchofchristwasilla.com)

Pray for each other daily.

June 5, 2022

## 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, Matt 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**

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

### Understanding Words and their Meaning:

How many of us have been in situations where we failed to understand the meaning of a word and gotten in difficult situation because of it? Or sometimes have used the wrong word in a sentence that changes the meaning of the entire article you are writing? And something that happens more often than we would like to admit, when we trusted spell check in the software we are using and it used a word with the correct spelling but with an entirely different meaning from the original word that we misspelled. Years ago, a preacher and I were talking about the impending move to Alaska that Peggy and I were planning to make in a few weeks. I told him that he could fly up to meet us any time he wanted. His response was amusing and was meant to be taken as a joke, but I wasn't sure of that until the end of his explanation. He told me that Christians shouldn't fly. I asked where he got that and he immediately responded **Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)**. I said something along the line that that is the Great Commission and how could he get the idea that Christians weren't to fly from that. He said the statement by Jesus and especially verse 20 covers it. There Matthew wrote “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*” So I fell for it hook, line and sinker as they say in the South when someone takes what another says without checking it out. I said I don't see how that passage teaches that Christians aren't to fly, his response was for me to read verse 20. When I got to the last phrase in the verse and read it, he said the Lord said he was with us low and didn't mention being with us high so Christians are to remain low and not fly. .

This is a funny story, especially because I fell for it completely until the end when I saw that he was telling me a joke. Here are two words that sound identical in English but have entirely different meanings, and without knowing which word is being used the entire meaning of the text can change. It is unfortunately indicative of a lot of preachers today that have thousands of followers yet misuse the scriptures to have them say what

they want. Take for example the so-called **Prosperity theology** (sometimes referred to as the **prosperity gospel**, the **health and wealth gospel**, the **gospel of success**, or **seed faith**). This a religious belief among some Protestant Christians that financial blessing and physical well-being are always the will of God for them, and that faith, positive speech, and donations to religious causes will increase one's material wealth. Material and especially financial success is seen as a sign of divine favor.<sup>1</sup> For example Oral Roberts began teaching prosperity theology in 1947. He explained the laws of faith as a "blessing pact" in which God would return donations "seven-fold" promising that donors would receive back from unexpected sources the money they donated to him. Roberts offered to return any donation that did not lead to an equivalent unexpected payment. In the 1970s, Roberts characterized his blessing pact teaching as the "seed faith" doctrine: donations were a form of "seed" which would grow in value and be returned to the donor Roberts began recruiting "partners", wealthy donors who received exclusive conference invitations and ministry access in exchange for support.<sup>2</sup> Recently it has been Joie Osteen and others such as Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Creflo Dollar Ministries, Benny Hinn Ministries, Bishop Eddie Long Ministries, Joyce Meyer Ministries, and Paula White Ministries who are carrying this doctrine to the world.

To improve their base of followers, they misuse the scripture. In particular, they claim that Malachi 3:10, Matthew 25:14–30, John 10:10, Philippians 4:19, 3 John 1:2 all teach this doctrine. Words have meaning, and to fully understand them, we must know the way that they are being used. This includes who is speaking, who their audience is and what is the conversation is about. But even if these are known, unscrupulous teachers will twist the passage to get it to teach what they want. Take for example one of the clearest verses in the New Testament, Mark 16:16 it is so clear that denominational preachers have begun teaching that the last nine verses in Mark 16 shouldn't be in the Bible. They base this on two manuscripts that omit this section, while completely ignoring the many more manuscript that include this section.

Words have meaning, let's make sure we understand this and teach correctly. Our souls and the souls of those who hear us will depend on it.

By: Bill Beebe

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia “Prosperity theology”

<sup>2</sup> Ibid