

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Second Place

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Michael Richardson. Nell Kelly had hip replacement surgery, not knee surgery as reported last week in the bulletin. Logan and Whitney and their new baby. Danesa's mother (Jean) pray for both of them, Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy. All health care providers

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Ben, Carla and family will leave for TN on Tuesday. Terri Douthitt will be traveling for the next two weeks.

Breakfast and Young Men's Training: There will be a breakfast at the Mat-Su Family Restaurant on Saturday October 17, 2020 beginning at 8:00 AM. The young men's training will be held at the church's building following the breakfast. Everyone is invited to the Breakfast.

Friday Evening Class: Remember that Tom is teaching a class this Friday, October 9, 2020, at the church's building. The class will begin at 6:00 PM and will last for about one hour. It is a great class so don't miss it.

Radio Programs: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program and our "One Minute for God" series which airs three times a day six days a week on KMBQ 99.7.

Today's Scripture: "You shall have no other gods before Me." **Exodus 20:3 (NKJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works." **Psalms 86:8 (NKJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 74/57: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

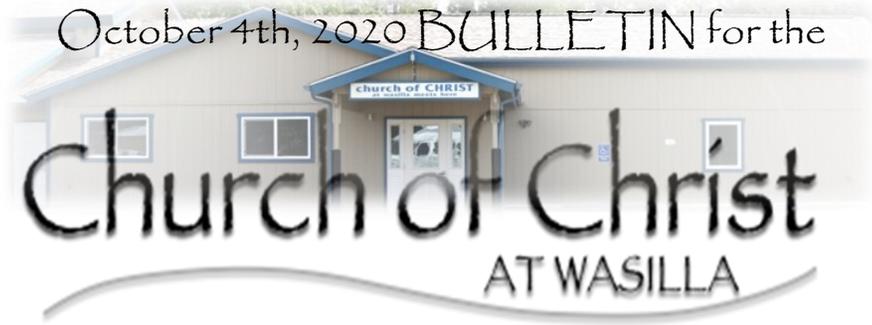
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EVANGELIST

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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
 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:
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Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Putting God in Second Place

We look at second and third place in a lot of ways. And quite often there are consequences associated with coming in second or third. Getting a silver or bronze medal, second or third place, in the Olympics in practically any major sport can mean thousands of dollars in advertisement and endorsement fees lost. After all who remembers who got the silver in the 100 meter dash in the last summer Olympic Games? Getting a silver medal in a local tournament just means that you learn from your mistakes and try to do better next time. Getting the bronze encourages you to work even harder. As we live our lives, we are always categorizing the things that we do. We put more emphasis on certain things than we do on other things. And these change as we age. This is because we recognize that what we had thought was important became unimportant in the larger scheme of our lives. Through our early teenage years friends are usually our top priority. Then our priorities usually turn to boyfriends or girlfriends and friends drop to second place. Then as we grow older, get a job then married and have a family our entire outlook on life changes. And what we place first in our lives often centers on our spouse and children.



We can get by through our lives easily with changing our priorities on almost everything we deal with. But there are a few things that we should never change. We should always value our families ahead of our jobs. This is a hard lesson for a lot of us to learn, especially me. In the process of trying hard to do an outstanding job so that I could get the position(s) I wanted, I often put my family below my job in the priorities of my life. And this caused me to miss a lot of the things that other fathers talk about enjoying as their families grew up. Arranging and rearranging our priorities is a common thing that happens to us throughout our lives. When we are just getting started, the jobs usually are very high on our priority lists, then as we grow older time off with friends or family takes a higher priority.

But the one thing that we cannot do is put God in second place in our lives. God demands that He be the highest priority, He wants to be first in our list of life's priorities. In the ten commands that Moses received from God which became the foundation of Israel's legal and social systems, the very first was "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." **Exodus 20:3 (KJV)**. Jesus told us how high this priority must be when He said "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his

Sermon by: Paul Stone; Article by: Bill Beebe

own household. 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." **Matthew 10:35-37 (KJV)**. Jesus was demanding that He be the highest priority of our lives. In fact, He says if you love your family more than Him you are not worthy to be called His.

However, many of us do put God in second place in our lives. We often chose to put other things ahead of God when we take a job that requires us to work every day that the church meets, preventing us from gaining the encouragement we need to grow as a Christian. We put God second in our lives when we chose to schedule our vacations to places that are well known for being hedonistic, where the very goal of the place is to present worldly temptations boldly, constantly, and openly. We put God in second place when we chose to watch a TV show rather than read our Bibles. We put God second in our lives when we allow friends to convince us to skip services. We put God second in our lives when we allow anything, or anyone, to interfere in the relationship that we should have with Him.

The consequences of putting the wrong thing first in our lives can be devastating. When we put work ahead of our families, we often wind up losing them. When we put recreation ahead of work, we often lose our jobs. But when we put anything ahead of God we risk losing our souls. Jesus warned us about this when He said **Luke 9:62 (part) (KJV)** "... No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." If we begin to work for God and His Kingdom and then turn to look back at the world we are not worthy of salvation. Peter made is very clear as well **2 Peter 2:20 (KJV)** "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning." When we become Christians and then go back into the world, when God becomes second, third or less a priority in our lives and we don't recognize our condition and place Him first again our end will be worse than the beginning, before we ever knew Him.

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is He responded with "...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." **Matthew 22:37-39 (part) (KJV)**. In this one verse, Jesus tells us how the priorities of our lives must be in order to please God. God must always be the first priority, then others which will include our families and friends, then at the bottom of our priority list should be ourselves. But too often we flip this upside down and make our priorities ourselves, others, God. Check your priorities now, and correct them if needed, before it is eternally too late.