

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

JOY

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Ralph Campbell, Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy . All health care providers

Daylight Savings Time Ends: Daylight Savings Time ended this morning at 2:00 AM. Hopefully you remembered to set your clocks BACK one hour last night.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Ben, Carla and family are in TN for a couple of months.

Friday Evening Class: The Friday evening class will resume this Friday at 6:00 PM here at the building.

Breakfast Meeting: We will have a breakfast meeting Saturday November 14 at 8:30 AM. It will be held at the Mat-Su Family Restaurant again.

Young Men's Training: There will be a young men's training class at the church's building beginning immediately after the breakfast meeting on Saturday November 14, 2020.

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: "Rejoice evermore." 1 Thessalonians 5:16 (KJV 1900)

Wisdom for Today: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Psalms 16:11 (KJV 1900)

Attendance Last Sunday 42: 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 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

JOY

The Bible is filled with passages that let us know that we should live a life of joy. The King James Version contains 184 verses that contain the word “joy” 197 times. In addition to this, it contains the word “rejoice” 267 times in 250 verses. The fact is that God wants His people to be a joyous people. And why shouldn't we? After all, we can enjoy this world and the majesty that it contains more than any other people because our Father created it and He owns it. And, when we die we get to go home to be with him. There we will enjoy living forever in a place so much better than this world that those men to whom God gave a glimpse of it could not find the words to describe what they saw. When Paul was carried there, he had this to say; “It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.” ² I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) ⁴ How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” **2 Corinthians 12:1–4 (KJV 1900)** Paul didn't even say it was he that went, only “I knew a man in Christ...” but most scholars believe that he is talking about himself here. And he didn't try to describe what he saw saying only that “...he was caught in Paradise and heard unspeakable words...”.

But later when Jesus revealed certain things to John and told him to write what he saw and heard we are blessed with what is now called “The Revelation”. In this book John struggles to describe what he saw. The only words that John could use described a place that we cannot even imagine. John described heaven with the only words he knew to use in **Revelation 21:16–27 (KJV 1900)**

It is hard for us to even understand what John saw. Just the sheer size of the city he saw is mind boggling. John described it as a cube about 1,379 miles on each side. This would give it a foot print of just over 1,901,598 square miles. Alaska covers only 570,641 square miles this city would be just over 3.5 times the size of Alaska. But this is not all, John describes it as a cube so the city would contain over 2.6 BILLION cubic miles. John describes the walls as being almost 245 feet thick. Then John says that the city is pure gold and the walls are made of jasper and garnished with twelve different types of gem stones and each of the twelve gates were made of a single pearl. Whatever Jesus revealed to John, it was more spectacular than he could find words adequate to describe. Finally John says that God and Jesus provide the light and the river of life flows from the throne of God through the city and on either side of it grows

Sermon by: Daniel Schramm; Article by: Bill Beebe

the tree of life. And Jesus promises us a mansion there; “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. because I live, ye shall live also.” **John 14:1-4 (KJV 1900)** Imagine a place like this! How can we be anything other than joyous?

In addition to this, we have a life here on earth that those outside the kingdom of God can't imagine nor can they participate in. Our sins are forgiven, what a joyous thought. We can talk directly to the creator of the universe and hear Him talking back to us through His inspired word. We can ask Him for what we want and be assured that He will answer; “¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” **1 John 5:13–15 (KJV 1900)**

With all this why are we not much more joyous than we are? We should be rejoicing every day. It is no wonder that Paul could say “¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” **Philippians 4:11–12 (KJV 1900)** But then Paul continues with a statement that we all know; “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” **Philippians 4:13 (KJV 1900)** Paul could say this even though he had been severely persecuted. He had been beaten, stoned, left for dead and shipwrecked. He was hated by his countrymen. His apostleship was questioned, yet he could say that he had learned to be content with whatever situation he was in. This demonstrates the joy we should have as Christians. Regardless of the things we face; sickness, poverty, persecution, riches or good health we can be content because of the joy that being a Christian brings us and the sheer unimaginable joy that awaits us in Heaven.