

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# So Many Churches

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Steve and Abby are in Juneau.

**Ladies Class:** There will be a Ladies Class February 13, 2021 beginning at 11:00 AM at the church's building. All the ladies are encouraged to attend. Contact Terry Campbell for additional information.

**Online Directory:** Please check the online directory to make sure you and your family are in it and that the contact information is correct. Check with Bill for information and instructions on how to make corrections. If you and your family are not listed in it, let Bill know that so that he can get it corrected.

**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:** "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" **Matthew 16:18 (KJV)**

**Wisdom for Today:** "And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints." **Psalms 89:5 (KJV)**

**Tonight's Lesson:** "An Inconvenient Truth" by Bill Beebe

Attendance Last Sunday 56/37: Our Record: 107

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

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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
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### 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

## Why So Many Churches?

I went into the break room at work one day and saw a small letter sized poster hanging on the refrigerator door. Being curious, and because I was the senior officer there at the time, I wanted to make sure it did not contain any material that shouldn't be posted. It was a sheet of printer paper with the following printed across the top of the page in a large font size;

"The strongest need for humans is not to eat or to reproduce, but to ~~change~~ **MODIFY** someone else's work!"

The next day the entire sheet had the previous word struck out and a new one written in. Someone crossed out **MODIFY** and had written **ADJUST** above it. The entire sheet had been used by people changing that one word and inserting a different one. What is the purpose of this story? It can help explain why there were about 41,000 "Christian" denominations in the world as of April 16, 2020. People are often not satisfied with the status quo (being influenced by Satan), so they find something that they can use to create another group. This began to happen soon after the church was created around May 28, 30AD.

Between late 37AD and May 40AD, Paul set up the church's in the region of Galatia. Then he wrote the letter to them (Galatians) between 49 and 50AD. In the first chapter Paul makes this statement; "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*" **Galatians 1:6-9 (KJV)**

But it wasn't only the church's in Galatia that were having issues. False teachers began to infiltrate the church in other places. And Paul wrote about this as well; "*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.*" **Galatians 2:11-13 (KJV)** This action, of course resulted in the Apostles and Elders meeting in the church in Jerusalem around 50AD in which the Holy Ghost guided them to determine that the Gentile men who converted to Christianity did not have to be circumcised as the Judaizing teachers were teaching. James made the statement concerning this in **Acts 15:19-21 (KJV)** where he said: "*Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.*"

## Sermon: Tom Betti; Article: Bill Beebe

So why are there so many Christian denominations today? The answer is simple, humans. Men became unsatisfied with the pure word of God and moved to change it. It was done when the churches began to elevate one Elder above the rest. God's clear teaching about each church having its own elders who answered only to Jesus was finally so mutilated that the Catholic system of Pope, Cardinals, Arch Bishops, and Bishops was put into effect.

But this is not the only change instituted by men. Men decided that baptism wasn't needed for salvation, opting instead for salvation by "Grace alone, through Faith alone". In doing this they changed the clear writing of James where he said "*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*" **James 2:17-18 (KJV).**

They began to teach that Acts 2:38 didn't mean that baptism was required in order that sins could be remitted, but that we were baptized because our sins had already been remitted. Then they attacked the sanctity of the Bible in an effort to reduce baptism from a command by Jesus that is required for salvation to something that a person may or may not do after they are saved. They did this by insisting that Mark 16:9-16 shouldn't be in the Bible since it was omitted in one of the earliest manuscripts in existence. However they don't mention all the other omitted passages and errors in that document.

In addition, men became disillusioned with God's instruction on Christian living. So passages like Hebrews 10:26-27 (KJV), Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV) and 2 Peter 1:5-11 were not taught because they clearly teach that a person can sin and lose their salvation. And the last tenet of Calvinism; "Perseverance of the Saints" was adopted. Along with the first four this paved the way for a multitude of denominations to form as humans began to use those teachings rather than the Bible.

Jesus created the perfect church, it was built on the confession of Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16). Jesus prayed that we stay united as one (John 17:11). But human pride and self-centered attitudes have torn the church into over 41,000 pieces. We can only be one, as Jesus wanted, if we return to the pure, unadulterated word of God. Going back to the Bible, not trying to get it to say what we want, and accepting its teachings as the inspired word of God we can be united. But that is the only way we can achieve unity. Jesus said that we can approach the Father only through Him (John 14:6). Because of this we must find the church that He built and discard all the rest, worshiping only as He and the Holy Spirit approved.

# One church, built by Jesus