

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Hope

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy, All health care providers and especially for Scott and his family.

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

Ladies Class: There will be a Ladies Class January 30, 2021 beginning at 11:00 AM at the church's building. All the ladies are encouraged to attend. Contact Terry Campbell for additional information.

Email and Text: Let Bill know if you are not receiving email and text from him about Bible classes and other church activities. Respond to: bill-bebecoc@gmail.com.

AED Training: Daniel will conduct AED training next Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 4:00 PM. Anyone interested please contact Daniel.

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: "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" **Titus 1:2 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." **Psalms 33:22 (KJV)**

Tonight's Lesson: "Pornography and the Lack of Self Control" by Daniel Schramm

Attendance Last Sunday 71: Our Record: 107

For more information, visit our website at www.churchofchristwasilla.com

ELDERS:

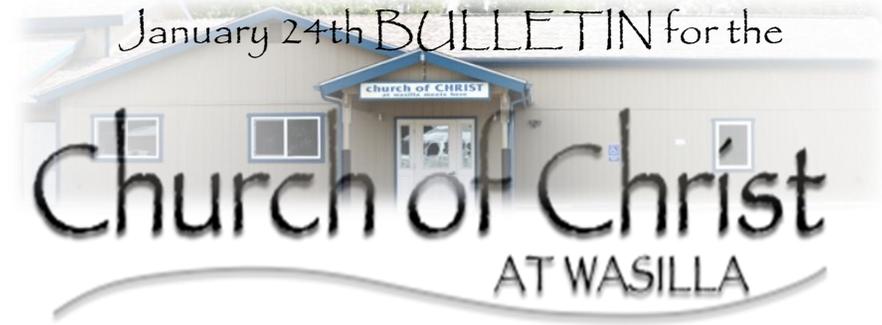
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EVANGELIST

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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 BaptizedMark 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

Hope

If you were to ask a child and even a teenager what they are getting for Christmas their response is likely to be something along the lines of "I hope that I get a bicycle." Or they may say "I hope that I get a snow machine." And we all seem to do this. We say we hope that we can get out and do some ice fishing over the holidays. In all of these statements the word "hope" is used when the word "wish" would be a better choice. While this is not necessarily a problem in our everyday conversations, it becomes a significant problem when we begin to interchange the two when reading our Bibles. When the writer of Hebrews defined "faith" for us he used the following: **Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Today we don't always truly understand what the Holy Spirit is wanting us to in this passage. This is because we use the word "hope" today differently than they used it in the first century. Dictionary.com defines the word "hope" and "wish" as follows:

Hope	Wish
The feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best:	To want; desire; long for (usually followed by an infinitive or a clause)
To look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence;	To desire (a person or thing) to be (as specified);
To believe, desire, or trust	To desire; long; yearn (often followed by for):
To feel that something desired may happen	A request or command:

It is easy to see that there are differences between the two as they should be defined and used today. However, we often ignore the differences and use them interchangeably.

But the Greek word used by inspiration of the Holy Ghost by the writer of Hebrews to define hope is "elpizo" carries a different meaning; this word means "to expect or confide" and is translated in the King James Version in Hebrews 11:1 as "hoped". Paul used the word "elpece" which is translated in the King James Version as "hope" and means "(to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstract or concrete) or confidence" several times in his letter to the Romans.

So today we often understand the writer of Hebrews as saying "Now faith is the substance of things that we look forward to with desire, the evidence of things not seen", but this isn't the meaning that He wants us to get. Rather He intended that we understand this verse as saying "Now faith is the substance of

Sermon: Paul Stone; Article: Bill Beebe

things that we expect and anticipate with pleasure, the evidence of things not seen." So while it may not sound like a major difference initially, on closer study there is a considerable difference. We are not to have a faith where we look forward to something we desire, but we are to have a faith where we anticipate with pleasure and expect things to happen. For example the faith that we should have is not a faith that causes me to look forward to the return of Jesus with desire, although I do. It's meaning is much stronger, it is a faith that I expect and anticipate with pleasure His return and judgement. To make it simpler, I don't desire (wish) for the return of Jesus, I expect (hope for) it.

Paul uses the same word in **Romans 8:24-25 (KJV)** where he writes "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." We are saved because we expect and anticipate the return of Jesus. But when we see Him coming in the clouds with His Holy Angels (Matthew 24:30-33) we will no longer need hope because that which we expected and anticipated will have come. When being interrogated by the High Priest, Jesus made the following statement that is recorded for us in **Matthew 26:64 (KJV)** "Jesus saith unto him, *Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*" It is this that we Christians have hope in, we don't wish for it. We expect and anticipate with pleasure seeing Jesus in the clouds and returning to Earth.

When writing his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, Paul told them this; **2 Corinthians 1:7 (KJV)** "And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation." Using the word "hope" Paul is telling the Christians there that he and others expected them to be endure with other Christians the suffering that was to come, so that they could also enjoy the consolation that would follow. Understanding what the word "hope" truly conveys in the new testament, we can proclaim with Paul; "But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question." **Acts 23:6 (KJV)**. We, like Paul, should expect that the dead will be resurrected. It is something that we need to have confidence in, not something that we just wish for.

Read **1 Thessalonians 5:8 (KJV)** "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." then insert "expectation" in the place of "hope" and see what the Holy Spirit really wanted us to understand. **We expect salvation, we anticipate it with pleasure!**