

**“My flesh and my heart may fail,  
But God is the strength of my heart and my  
portion forever. ”**  
**-- Psalm 73:26**



Bible Bowl 2024 off to a great start  
Teams and parents listening to opening instructions from Bob Edgar  
at Christ's Church building  
Bozeman, MT

**“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped  
for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it  
the men of old gained approval.”**  
***Hebrews 11:1,2***

Win one more in 2024 - "...he who is wise wins souls" - Proverbs 11:30

**March 17, 2024**

## Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

Holiday Inn Express — Butte

**BOZEMAN - 8:45** - John Odell

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Daniel Arriaga

L.S. - Steve Icenogle

Preaching - Luke Wilson

**L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM** -

\* **GROUPS STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**

L.S. - Nick Jacobs

**GREAT FALLS - 2:45** - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Jared DuPaul

L.S. - Caleb Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**BUTTE - 7:30 pm** - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - George Stone

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**Bozeman**

**Mar. 23/24** - Prayer and fasting for evangelism

**Mar. 24** - Fellowship dinner following assembly. Theme: Mexican

**Butte**

**Mar. 17** - Fellowship dinner - 6:30 pm



**BOZEMAN -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**  
*Mentally Tough series*  
**Luke Wilson**

**GREAT FALLS -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**  
*Jay Wilson*

**Great Falls**

Fasting and prayer Mar. 17

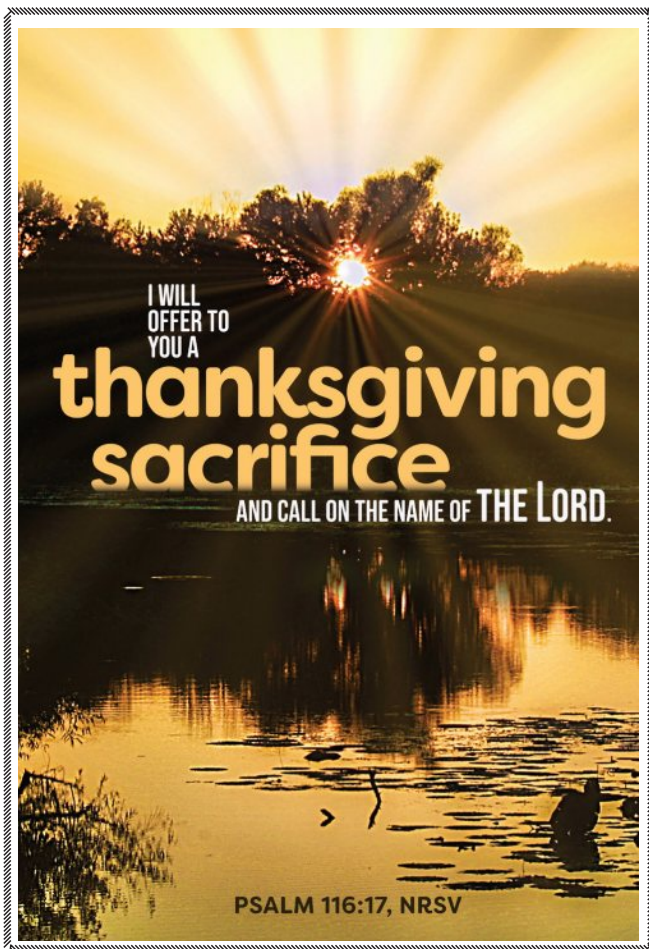
### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Missoula "College-ish" Weekend** - Mar. 22-24 -  
Camp Utmost at Greenough, MT

**Ladies' Advance** - April 18-20, 2024 at Fishtail, MT  
**Montana Youth Camp** - June 9-14 (also at Fishtail)

**Men's "Peaks"** - July 25-27, 2024

**Family Camp** - Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024



### Question of the week:

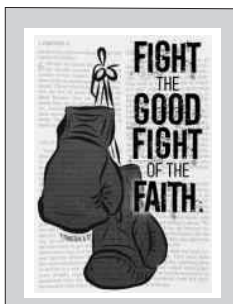
Pontius Pilate was aware that the chief priests had an evil motive for handing Jesus over to him. What was that motive?

Last week's question: What kind of trumpets, according to the book of Numbers, were used to call all Israel together at the tent of meeting? *Answer: Silver (Numbers 10:2).*

### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 82  
Morning Assembly – 116  
Evening Assembly – 63

Wednesday Night (3/13) – 63  
Butte Lord's Day – 10  
GF Lord's Day – 68,88 Wed. - 57



## The Epistles to the Evangelists

### *Paul's Strong Finish*

What a life the apostle Paul had led! But like most adventure stories, it is easier to read about than it would have been to have lived it. We catch glimpses of his life as a zealous young Jew, seated on the Sanhedrin, and voting the deaths of Jewish followers of Christ. The story of his meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road, and his conversion in being immersed by Ananias make interesting and instructive reading. Before long he is persecuted in Damascus, threatened with death in Jerusalem, and languishing in Tarsus. Brought to Antioch of Syria by Barnabas, after preaching for a year or so there, he embarks upon his three great missionary journeys,

specifically to ex-chains, released for a bit, and now is in prison (tradition says the Mamertine prison in Rome).

- **Poured out as a drink offering** – After encouraging Timothy to do the work of an evangelist, the aged apostle then states, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). The “drink offering” in the Old Testament (generally “libation” in the NASB) was an alcohol-based liquid poured out in connection with certain sacrifices. It is an interesting picture of the brevity of life and its quick end; the vial of wine, for example, brought to the blaze consuming the sacrifice, and being poured out on the fire with a quick, final burst of flame as the alcohol is emptied from the container. Paul knew, by information given from the Holy Spirit, that his “departure” was coming quickly, and the final burst of his life would expire as he was to be executed by the Romans.
- **Fighting the good fight** – All other “fights” are empty or evil. The fight to be at the top of the profession, the fight to be at the top of the empire, the fight to be the most photographed starlet...all empty and/or evil. The earth and its works will be burned up on the last day, and all the strivings of men for earthly things will be for naught. But there is one fight that counts, one fight that matters for all eternity, and that is the fight for souls. The apostle Paul appropriately calls it the “good fight.” As he is beginning to bring his communication in this letter to Timothy to a close, he emphasizes, “I fought the good fight” (2 Timothy 4:7). To which we moderns, having the book of Acts as a partial record, can say that we are thankful that he did fight such a fight.
- **Finishing the course** – The race must be finished in order for the entrant to be counted a qualifier. There is no glory for the runner who falters before the finish, or is disqualified as Paul mentioned in his first epistle to the Corinthian brethren. What triumphant words these are: “I finished the course!”
- **Keeping the faith** – The apostle encountered many different types of distractions and pressures in the years of his sojourning and preaching the gospel. “The faith of Christ” is controversial in a hostile world that is intent on doing what it wants without any remonstrance from the righteous God. It was no minor statement for Paul firmly and confidently to say, “I have kept the faith!”

**“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”**

There is a great line from the Old Testament historical record that applies here. When Ben-hadad king of Syria spoke great swelling words about what he and his army were going to do to Israel, King Ahab responded, “Let not him who girds on his armor boast like him who takes it off” (1 Kings 20:11). The apostle Paul at the close of his life is taking his armor off. And his words are not empty, nor boastful; he knew that he got his strength from the Lord. But they pull those of us who still have breath onward: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.” The battles can be won, the race can be run, and faith “sight” can become!