

**Jeremiah said to the king, “Where then are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, ‘The king of Babylon will not come against you or against this land.’ ”?**

**-- Jeremiah 37:19**



The “Forget Us Not”  
awesome team from the 48th St Church of Christ in Billings  
plus one stray from Wibaux  
getting mentally and spiritually ready  
Bible Bowl 2024 - Christ’s Church in Bozeman, MT

**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”**

*Matthew 7:21*

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

## March 24, 2024

### Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman  
2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls  
Holiday Inn Express — Butte

**BOZEMAN** - 8:45 - Corban Icenogle

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

Prayer med - Phil Sutton

L.S. - Steven Doty

Preaching - Luke Wilson

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

**\* GROUPS STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**

L.S. - Josh Wallace

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

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Caleb McDunn

L.S. - Rick Vaught

Preaching - Jay Wilson

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

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - David Renner

Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman

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

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

Butte

**April 21** - Fellowship dinner - 6:30 pm



**BOZEMAN** -

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

**GREAT FALLS** -

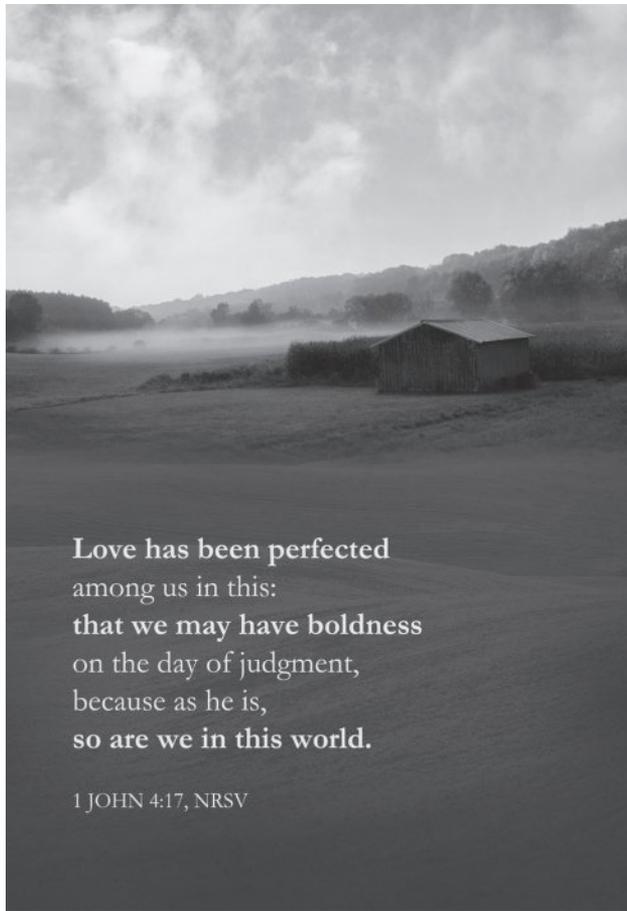
**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**  
*Jay Wilson*

### Great Falls

Congratulations to **Jeremy Schmiecke**, who was immersed into Christ on Lord's Day, March 17 by his dad John. Jeremy currently lives in Shellrock, Iowa.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Ladies' Advance** - April 18-20, 2024 at Fishtail, MT  
**Lancaster Family Camp** - Memorial Day Weekend  
**Badlands Family Camp** - Memorial Day Weekend  
**Montana Youth Camp - June 9-14** (also at Fishtail)  
**Men's "Peaks"** - July 25-27, 2024  
**Family Camp** - Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024



Love has been perfected  
among us in this:  
that we may have boldness  
on the day of judgment,  
because as he is,  
so are we in this world.

1 JOHN 4:17, NRSV

### Question of the week:

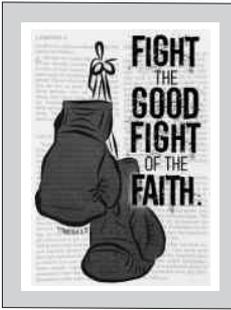
The Lord through Moses ordered Israel to take vengeance upon the Midianites because of the idolatry that they were pulling Israel into. What major trouble-maker was killed along with the Midianites?

Last week's question: Pontius Pilate was aware that the chief priests had an evil motive for handing Jesus over to him. What was that motive? *Answer: Envy (Mark 15:10).*

### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 109  
Morning Assembly – 134  
Evening Assembly – 79

Wednesday Night (3/20) – 56  
Butte Lord's Day – 10  
GF Lord's Day – 62,83 Wed. - 50



## The Crown of Righteousness

Why keep working if there is no paycheck? Why strive if the striving is pointless? It is not wrong for the Christian to be driven to receive the proper reward for his labors in the Lord. The word of God commends those “who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life” (Romans 2:7). If a saint suffers and sacrifices so that the gospel can go forward and his neighbors’ souls saved, and then there is no positive resurrection of the dead, what is the point? “If we have hoped in this life only,” stated the apostle Paul, referring to the proposition that there is no resurrection and therefore no reward for suffering for the gospel, “we are of all men most to be pitied” (1 Corinthians 15:19). But, praise the

Lord, there will be the resurrection of the wicked and especially of the righteous on the last day!

- **“Laid up for me”** – The apostle encouragingly pointed out to Timothy that he personally had “fought the good fight.” “I have finished the course,” he exulted, “I have kept the faith.” And to what end? “In the future,” the inspired apostle says, “there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness” (2 Timothy 4:8). Being “poured out as a drink offering,” he knows that his earthly death is imminent, but he knows that at his death he does not instantly go to heaven. He knows that he must for a period of earthly time “be absent from the body” and “at home with the Lord” in Paradise (2 Corinthians 5:8). Not until the Lord’s second coming will he, “in the future,” receive his resurrection body.
- **The crown** – “The crown” belongs to the victor, the “laurel wreath” of honor to the winner of the Olympic games of ancient times. Those in the physical realm run their races “to receive a perishable wreath, but we,” affirmed Paul “an imperishable” (1 Corinthians 9:25). This imperishable wreath Paul also calls “the crown of righteousness.” James noted, “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life” (James 1:12). Without the righteousness of God, there will be no eternal life but only eternal judgment. Hence the “crown of righteousness” awarded is to those, such as Paul, who “kept the faith” and is thus the same as the “crown of life.” As it is stated in the new covenant writings quoting Habakkuk, “But the righteous man shall *live* by faith” (Romans 1:17).
- **Awarded** – There is “the crown of righteousness,” affirms the apostle, “which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to *all* who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8). James also noted that the award is for all overcomers, saying that “the crown of life” is “promised to those who love Him.” The “righteous Judge” judges on the basis of the Biblically defined faith; if any person comes to that faith and maintains it through the many and variegated difficulties of earth’s sojourn, he will be justified. The righteous will live eternally by what they believe; the unrighteous will perish for lack of belief or for persisting in an incorrect belief system.

The “crown” is  
for all who have  
loved His  
appearing

One of the tests of true faith is a willingness to have a clear picture of Jesus’ second coming as the beckoning force in his life. The word of God states that “the earth and its works will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). The saint who loves “His appearing” will set earthly priorities aside to focus on the matters that will last for all eternity. If it doesn’t matter when Jesus comes, it doesn’t really matter now; if it does matter when Jesus comes, it really does matter now. That the car was totaled and bones were broken this past weekend might seem to be a very important issue, but it won’t matter when Jesus comes. That the saint missed assembly this past weekend might not seem very important now, but it will matter when Jesus comes.

The award of the crown of righteousness is for all who have loved His appearing!