

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Anguish of Heart

The apostle Paul was the one who started the congregation at Corinth. He came into the city on his second missionary journey, having been run out of Thessalonica and Berea in Macedonia and without knowing anyone in the area. Taking a position with a fellow tentmaker named Aquilla and his wife Priscilla, he began the initial work of converting people to Christ. When the congregation had developed sufficiently, he went on to Ephesus, then on to Judea and Antioch of Syria, from whence he had been sent out. He loved the people in Corinth, and earnestly desired the salvation of their souls and the future steadfastness of faith for the congregation. Out of this anguish of heart, he writes the words in this second epistle, calling them to true repentance and

commending them for any progress they have made. Positively approaching the issues, he makes his key point: "We are workers with you for your joy."

- **Sorrow/gladness** — Some of the issues in Corinth were of major importance and tearing at the core of the congregation. Paul did not want to come to the congregation until some of those things were internally resolved so that his time with them could be uplifting instead of his having to engage in disciplinary action. "For I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again," he had stated. "To spare you," he had earlier commented, "I came no more to Corinth." But he is clearly open to the possibility of their turning their situation around; in fact, this is his earnest desire. "For if I cause you sorrow," is his proposition, "who makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful?" (2 Corinthians 2:2). This is not simply a matter of making Paul happy, as if he were "lording it over their faith"; this is their eternal salvation.
- **Reason for writing** — In his first epistle, the apostle answered some of their questions and called them out on some moral issues. "And this is the very thing I wrote to you," he further explains, "lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy would be the joy of you all" (2 Corinthians 2:3). Real scriptural joy is tied to this statement of Jesus: "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). Since the Almighty God is the most important "Person" in the universe, it should be obvious that alienation from Him is the most serious issue in any human's life. For Paul, who had labored intently in Corinth for the eternal souls of these brethren, his sorrow would be the result of their walking according to the flesh and his joy would be when they were walking according to the Spirit. He again expressed his confidence that they would get it right with God and exhibit the appropriate spiritual attitudes and actions.
- **Paul's intensity** — It was out of a deep love for the Christ who saved him that Paul in turn loved the lost. This driving intensity was clearly displayed in his desire to take the gospel to all the places along his missionary journeys, his willingness to suffer greatly for preaching the gospel, and for his continuing efforts to see the saints conserved. "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears," he explains, "not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you" (2 Corinthians 2:4).

The apostle is not throwing the words "sorrow" and "glad" around lightly. These are earnest descriptions of what he is going through on behalf of the saints at Corinth. Eternity clearly hangs in the balance for many of the brethren in Achaia; the statement that "out of much affliction and anguish of heart" show the apostle's intense and continuing concern. That concern and those tears stand as a great example of how much modern saints should care for the souls of the lost and the continuing faithfulness of the saved.

Jay Wilson

The apostle is not throwing the words "sorrow" and "glad" around lightly.

I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore all the peoples will give You thanks forever



Ezra McDunn, happy with his gingerbread house part of Bible school lesson Christ's Church Butte, MT

"He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."
John 5:23

January 14, 2018!

Christ's Church

Meeting at
30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman
Comfort Inn — Butte

MORNING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 8:45 a.m.

Opening — Jay Wilson, Ben Boyer

M.C. — Bob Edgar

Stewardship exhortation — Chris Phillips

Communion Meditation — Jerry Hoffman

Preaching — Jay Wilson

EVENING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 7:00 p.m., **Butte - 7:30 p.m.**

M.C. — Phil Sutton, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Herb Burnell, **George Stone**

Preaching — Davis Ashley, **Jay Wilson**



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monthly fasting and prayer for evangelism — Sat. and Lord's Day Jan. 13, 14

Chili and Corn Bread cookoff — Combined with monthly fellowship and potluck, Lord's Day Jan. 28 right after assembly

Bible Bowl — Sat., March 10, 2018

Ladies' Advance — April 19-21, Hampton Inn, Great Falls, MT

Men's PEAKS — Thurs. - Sat. July 19-21, 2018 at Delmoe Reservoir

Family Camp 2018 — Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2018 at Bozeman church property

Catch us live or archived:

livestream.com/ccib

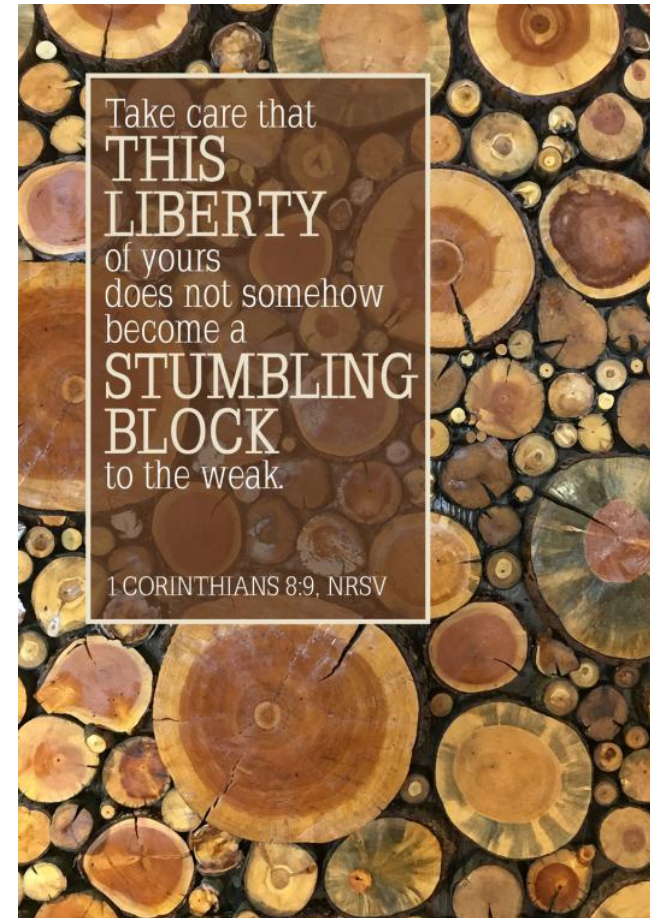
christchurchonline.com

Also check out the youtube videos on targetingtruth.com

and audios at innermanradio.org

This Wednesday, Jan. 17th —

7:00 p.m. — Some enlightenment from Ephesians — Phil Sutton



Question of the week:

What was the name of the fourth son of Jacob's wife Leah?

Last week's question: What is the last word in the Bible? *Answer: Amen (Revelation 22:21).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School — 104

Morning Assembly — 124

Evening Assembly — 60

Wednesday Night (1/10) — 66

Butte Lord's Day — 16

Great Falls Lord's Day — 42,83