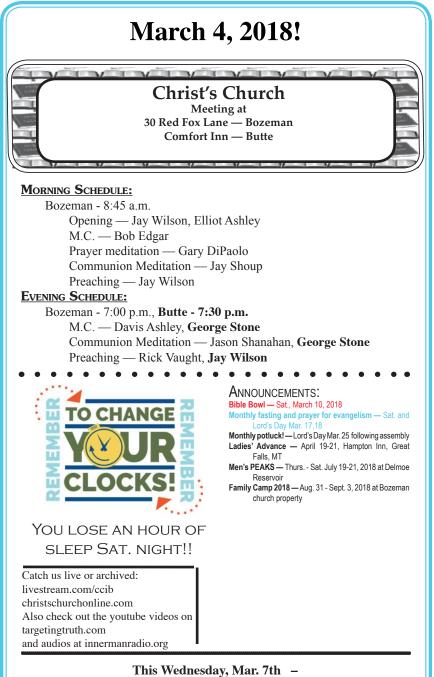
## The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold

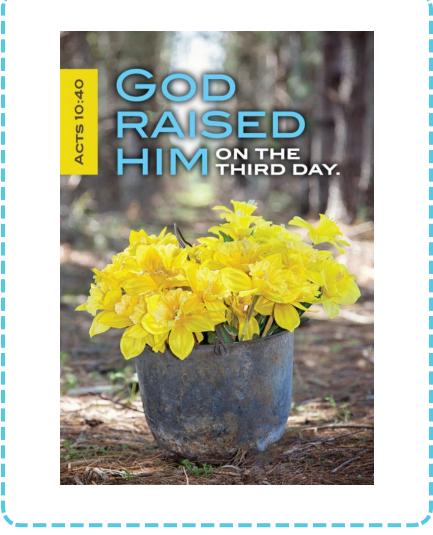


Kids having a great time after school in the swing area Christ's Church Academy an integral ministry of Christ's Church in Great Falls Great Falls, MT

"If I bear witness of Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the testimony which He bears of Me is true." John 5:31,32



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



Question of the week:

When the apostles were first sent out two-by-two by Jesus, what were they doing with oil while they were also casting out demons?

Last week's question: Which chapter in the book of Leviticus is devoted to instructions concerning the Day of Atonement? *Answer: Leviticus chapter 16.* 

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School — 99 Morning Assembly — 117 Evening Assembly — 69

## Wednesday Night (2/28) — 71 **Butte Lord's Day** — 11 Great Falls Lord's Day — 44,68



Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

## Written by the Spirit

The Law of Moses constitutes a significant portion of the volume of the sacred writings moderns term "the Bible." In spite of its volume, however, the Law or Old Testament is not the significant thrust of the scriptures. That which constitutes the "new covenant" or "the faith of Christ"—which centers around what Christ accomplished through the cross and in His ascension—is rightly the focus of the inspired word of God. "Therefore let no one act as your judge," the apostle Paul instructed the congregation at Colossae, "in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day." In other words, the Colossian disciples of Christ were not to allow the Judaizers of their day to foist the practices of the Old Covenant upon them. The instruction

continues, wherein the apostle points out that these "things are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ" (Colossians 2:16,17). This is a statement to ponder over: the substance belongs to Christ! Thus the Corinthian brethren were not products of the Law, but "a letter of Christ."

▼ Not with ink — The apostle had begun this section by talking about his not needing a letter of commendation to the brethren in Corinth and Cenchrea. "You are our letter," he had said. "You are a letter of Christ," he had superadded, "written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3). The Corinthians, like all others who would obey the gospel and be saved, would have received the indwelling Spirit at their immersions into Christ, in accordance with scriptures such as Acts 2:38. Hence this "letter of Christ" was written when they—on an individual basis—were properly immersed. And what a letter! It was not written in ink, in the realm of the unseen, in the realm of faith. Certainly no other letter could compare.

▼ Not on tablets of stone — The apostle, in an intelligent way and manifesting con-

siderable depth of thought, is introducing his instruction on the superiority of the new covenant as contrasted to the old. "You are a letter of Christ," he had expostulated, far in excess of anything that could have come through Moses. This letter, written with the Spirit, was not on the cold, hard "tablets of stone" of the Old Covenant, but on living, regenerated "tablets of human hearts." The superiority of the new system—the faith of Christ—is clear to those who will process the difference between this and the law of Moses.

This "letter of Christ" was actually written by the Spirit of the living God.

The Spirit of the living God — There is a huge difference between the law and the faith, and a major portion of that difference is centered upon the indwelling Holy Spirit. For example, as the apostle Paul was reasoning with the Galatian Christians about the difference between the Law of Moses and the faith of Christ, he asked a very poignant question: "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?" (Galatians 3:2). The system of the Law never promised the indwelling Holy Spirit, whereas the indwelling Spirit is the primary topic of the system of faith. Hence it is highly significant that Paul would emphasize that this "letter of Christ" was not written on tablets of stone, but rather written by the Spirit of the living God!

Would Paul then need a letter of commendation to the church at Corinth? The Corinthian Christians themselves being Paul's letter, none other was needed. But this "letter of Christ, cared for by us" was actually written by the Spirit of the living God! Thus, the information coming in this epistle, has the Spirit's backing. "And such confidence we have through Christ toward God" (2 Corinthians 3:4). The brethren would be wise to "listen up!"