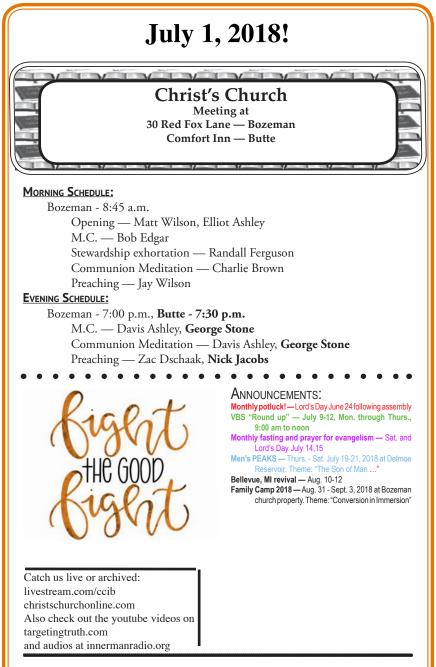
GOD, IN THE CITY'S PALACES, HAS MADE HIMSELF A STRONGHOLD

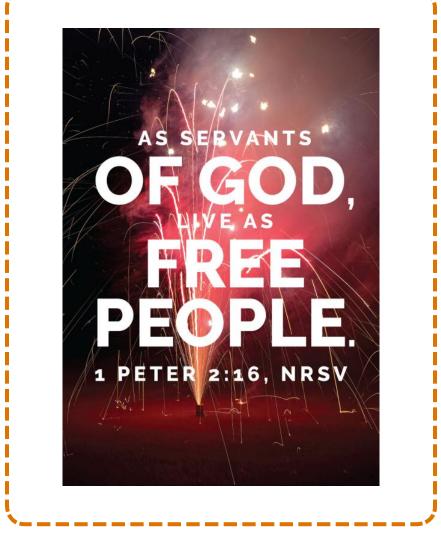


Mr. Roger Magalsky doing his part in passing out awards to the children of the Christian academy 48th St. Church of Christ Billings, MT

"One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here with five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"" John 6:8



This Wednesday, July 4th – 7:00 p.m. – Teachings from Titus – Phil Sutton



Question of the week:

What did the prophet do to Jehu when he also prophesied that the dogs would eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel?

Last week's question: What conclusion was Peter to draw upon his seeing the blanket let down from heaven with all kinds of unclean animals on it, and the command saying to kill and eat? Answer: That God is not one to show partiality, and that in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him (Acrs 10:34,35(.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 92Wednesday Night (6/27) – --Morning Assembly – 110Butte Lord's Day – 18Evening Assembly – 84Great Falls Lord's Day – 32,62



Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Consciousness in the Inner Man

The apostle Paul was excited that the gospel of Christ was spreading to more and more people in his day! But the cost to him and his fellow proclaimers was high. Persecuted, afflicted, and struck down, these men kept right on preaching and teaching the gospel of the glory of Christ, and those who obeyed the gospel were overjoyed at the grace of God which was brought to their lives. This joyful thanksgiving thus redounded to the glory of God, and Paul was able to share in their thanksgiving to God and their giving glory to His name.

▼ *Not discouraged* — In the face of such personal pain and persecution, the apostle is able to maintain a positive attitude. For the benefit of the Corinthian brethren, and for all those of later gen-

erations who would read this epistle, he states, "Therefore we do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 4:16). Part of the reason for his not losing heart (being discouraged) is that the gospel is spreading to more and more people. But another factor is his focus. *Renewal of the inner man* - It is important to restress that there is an inner man, especially for the Christian. The outer man lives in the world of the tangible, where all the physical elements of existence with their challenges and appeals must be dealt with. Hence there is a constant consciousness of the issues that are pressing on the outer man. But with the inner man, it is different. Because the inner man cannot be detected by anything in the physical realm, the inner man can be forgotten or neglected; an "out of sight, out of mind" phenomenon develops. Not so with the apostle. He is conscious that "though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day." This is the type of revelation that an apostle would receive directly from the Holy Spirit. Without the information given in the scriptures, modern saints would not be able to say with precision that there is an outer man and that there is an inner man, that each individual consists of soul and spirit as well as possessing a body, that it is out of the heart of man that evil proceeds rather than

something embedded in his flesh. The outer man, then, obviously decays, but the inner man is strengthened and renewed by God's Holy Spirit on a daily basis! What a tremendous source of encouragement that is.

Seeing correctly — Here is the apostle Paul, stoned and left for dead some fourteen years ago, encouraging the brethren to think about their inner man. Was his head still somewhat misshapen? Did he occasionally suffer migraines? Was his eyesight impacted? While we don't know the answers to those questions, if those were issues he had to work through, we THE DISCIPLE SHOULD FIX HIS ATTENTION ON "THE THINGS NOT SEEN."

know what his focus was. His words can greatly help saints of this present time who must suffer persecution or physical ailments: "For momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look—not at the things which are seen, but—at the things which are not seen" (2 Corinthians 4:17,18). The things which are not seen are the things in the spiritual realm, the realm which can only be "seen" by the eye of faith as revealed in God's holy word.

Part of the major purpose of God has been to produce a people "born from above" whose interest is in the things "unseen," whose interest is in the spiritual realm as contrasted to those whose interest is in the things of the flesh. Because they see with "unveiled face," they see the glory of God in the face of Christ and all that is connected with that. "The things which are seen," expounds the inspired apostle, "are temporal, but the things which are unseen are eternal." Properly processed, it is easy to see where the disciple of Christ should fix his attention.

JAY WILSON