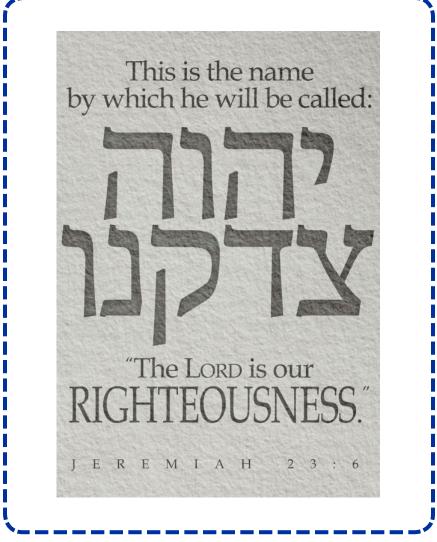
The kings saw the city of God, then they were amazed; they were terrified, they fled in alarm



Brenna Marshall of Wauseon, OH with Joseph Shanahan of Bozeman, MT At the Thursday evening assembly Christ's Church in Wauseon Wauseon, OH

"Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted." John 6:11





Question of the week:

What was it that David prepared in Jerusalem as a place for the ark of the covenant?

Last week's question: Before the soldiers came down out of the fortress and rescued Paul, Jews from what Roman province accused the apostle of bringing Gentiles into the temple and defiling the holy place? *Answer: Asia (Acts 21:27).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 88 Morning Assembly – 106 Evening Assembly – 88 Wednesday Night (7/11) – 86 Butte Lord's Day – 11 Great Falls Lord's Day – 32,55



Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Of Good Courage

People will pursue what they really want. Those who have been properly immersed into Christ will also pursue what they really want; hence the word of God continually exhorts them to want the things of eternal value. The scripture also has numerous warnings against deception, self-deception, and deluding influences. These are the ultimate in mind games, and they pull the attention of the Christian away from the importance of things eternal and into a destructive here-and-now focus. The apostle Paul therefore is working on the minds of the brethren in Corinth to get them to have the correct perception about their eternity and their eternal body. "We long to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven," is

one of his instructive comments. "We want to be clothed [with our immortal body] in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life," is another. Then he makes this hugely important statement: "Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge." Having thus pointed out the purpose for the saint, the further comment is that God, on His part, gave the indwelling Spirit as His guarantee that He will grant the Christian the proper resurrection on the last day. This, then, for the disciple of Christ must be what he really wants.

What we know — Because the saints of God know that the scripture can be proven to be true, and because Jesus is risen from the dead, they also know that they, if they remain faithful, will also receive the resurrection to eternal life. "Therefore, being always of good courage," asseverates the apostle, "and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord ..." (2 Corinthians 5:6). The child of God, born from above, rather than "losing heart" is always "of good courage," being upbeat regardless of earthly circumstances because he knows his eternity is secure. Walking by faith - All the great and eternal things are in the realm of the unseen,

whereas the things of the realm of what may be seen are temporary. The Christian, to maintain his great attitude ("of good courage")

cannot focus on the things of earth. If things of the flesh are his driving force, he sets his priorities on the earthly realm. The true saints, however, "walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Because they "see Him who is unseen" as revealed in the scriptures, they have heavenly priorities and are not pulled down by the challenges of an earth that was cursed from the first.

The good courage is translated into having confidence in his own resurrection as well as having a great attitude!

Preference — When the apostle Paul was caught up into Paradise, as he described it, he "heard inexpressible words which a man is not permitted to speak" (2 Corinthians 12:4). He also participated in what he called "the surpassing greatness of the revelations" (2 Corinthians 12:7). The conclusion that could be drawn is that Paul had been able to experience a little bit of Paradise and that even Paradise (still less than heaven) is awesomely wonderful. The result, then, is that Paul writes to the congregation in Corinth, saying, "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Every saint needs to process those words: it is better to be absent from the body and home with the Lord!

Twice in this context the apostle says, "we are of good courage." "In this house," he in contrast had stated, referring to the physical body, "we groan," because "in this house" he was subject to privation, persecution, prison, and pain. "Being of good courage" was what helped him through all those challenges. The good courage translated into having confidence in his own eventual resurrection to glory, as well as being able to have a great attitude in facing down all earthly vicissitudes. He thus serves as a model for modern Christians, if they will honestly process the information given them.

JAY WILSON

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