## THE PERCEPTIVE SEES THAT EVEN WISE MEN DIE; THE STUPID AND THE SENSELESS ALIKE PERISH, AND LEAVE THEIR WEALTH TO OTHERS



Lads and lassies participating in the outside activities Spiritual Warriors' Weekend on the grounds of Christ's Church Bozeman, MT

"All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." John 6:37

## December 9, 2018!





Question of the week:

The first and second epistles of John speak of antichrists, who denied that Jesus took a fleshly body. From whence did these antichrists arise?

Last week's question: In one of Daniel's visions, a male goat was moving over the surface of the earth without touching the ground. What did the ram and the goat represent in the vision? *Answer: The ram represented Media/Persia, and the goat represented Greece (Daniel 8:20,21).* 

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 98Wednesday Night (12/5) – 80Morning Assembly – 121Butte Lord's Day – 15Evening Assembly – 63Great Falls Lord's Day – 44,88



Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

## **Fruit of Repentance**

John the Immerser's preparatory message was for the people to repent and be immersed for the remission of their sins. In fact, so significant was his call for repentance that the name for his immersion was the "immersion of repentance" (Luke 3:3). "Then Jerusalem was going out to him," recorded Matthew, "and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan, and they were being immersed by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins" (Matthew 3:5,6). The hearts of the fathers were in fact being turned back to the children, the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, and the people were being made ready for the Lord (Luke 1:17). But when John "saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him for immersion...," the record continues, he said to them, "Bring forth fruit

in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:7,8). Repentance is much more than saying "Sorry," or having good intentions; there must be fruit or evidence. As the apostle Paul described his conversion to Roman governor Porcius Festus and local King Agrippa, he noted that following his immersion he preached to both Jews and Gentiles, "that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance" (Acts 26:20). This same Paul— in his correspondence with the brethren in Corinth—when he sees the actual change in performance in them, praises them.

- Godly sorrow "The sorrow of the world produces death," the apostle had pointed out to the brethren, whereas "the sorrow according to the will of God produces repentance without regret." This repentance is without regret because that which is in accordance with the will of God always produces good fruit, and the good fruit is always beneficial to the one who repents. "For behold," the apostle writes, "what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you" (2 Corinthians 7:11). The spiritual challenge to change that Paul had given them in his earlier epistle was accepted by the brethren. They were sorry that they had not conducted themselves according to God's expectations, and resolved to upgrade
  - their conduct.
    Fruit of repentance The apostle is very complimentary in his remarks toward the Corinthian brethren. Their godly sorrow bore the fruit of repentance, as the apostle exclaimed, "What *earnestness* this godly sorrow has produced!" From being slack in their application of scriptural principles to themselves, they became very serious indeed. The apostle continues: "What *vindication*

The big issue was the willingness of the congregation to follow the apostles' doctine.

of yourselves.<sup>7</sup> Whatever corrections needed to made were accomplished. "What *indignation*"—from being numb to sin, their sense of its destructiveness was heightened, and what previously did not matter to them now was of great concern. "What *fear*"—The general numbness of their previous spiritual condition was set aside and the appropriate fear of God and appreciation of what His wrathful power could do wasimplemented in their lives. "What *longing*"—The effects of sin and Satan separate people and brethren in Christ so that there is no desire for interaction; true repentance results in a real longing for restoration of full and fulfilling fellowship. "What *zeal*"—Previous half-hearted efforts and lukewarm attitudes were replaced by the blazing zeal for the things of God, the things which please the Father in heaven. "What *avenging of wrong*"—It takes extra effort, time, and expense to go back and make things right; the congregation at Corinth made those efforts and was commended by the apostle. This listing of seven specific fruit of repentance produced by the church at Corinth are instructive for the brethren today!! "In everything," commends the apostle, "you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter."

He closes his words of commendation in this fashion: "So although I wrote to you it was not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God. For this reason we have been comforted." (2 Corinthians 7:12,13). Bigger than the issue of restoring the offender or helping the church welcome him back was the issue of the willingness of the congregation to follow the apostles and their doctrine. And so it is today!

JAY WILSON