

**THE UPRIGHT WILL RULE OVER THE FOOLISH
IN THE MORNING; THEIR FORM [THE FOOLISH]
SHALL BE FOR SHEOL TO CONSUME, SO THAT
THEY HAVE NO HABITATION**



Scene from the Schmiedeke home, Thursday night Bible study
Katie Wilson and John Brandon in conversation
Great Falls, MT
(artwork provided by Sydney Schmiedeke)

**“And they were saying, ‘Is this not
Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose
father and mother we know? How
does He now say, “I have come
down out of heaven”?’ ”**

John 6:42

January 13, 2019!

Christ's Church

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

MORNING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 8:45 a.m.

Opening — Jay Wilson, Kaden Reijgers

M.C. — Bob Edgar

Stewardship exhortation — Bob Woodburn

Communion Meditation — Zac Dschaak

Preaching — Jay Wilson

EVENING SCHEDULE:

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

M.C. — Phil Sutton, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Matthew Wilson, **Tom McDunn**

Preaching — Jason, Joe, Jon Shanahan, **Jay Wilson**



This Wednesday,
January 16th —
7:00 p.m. —
*Character Traits of
Jesus*
— Phil Sutton

Fasting weekend and
potluck — Sat. and
L.D. Jan. 26,27

Catch us live or archived:
livestream.com/ccib
christchurchonline.com
Also check out the youtube videos on
targetingtruth.com
and audios at innermanradio.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

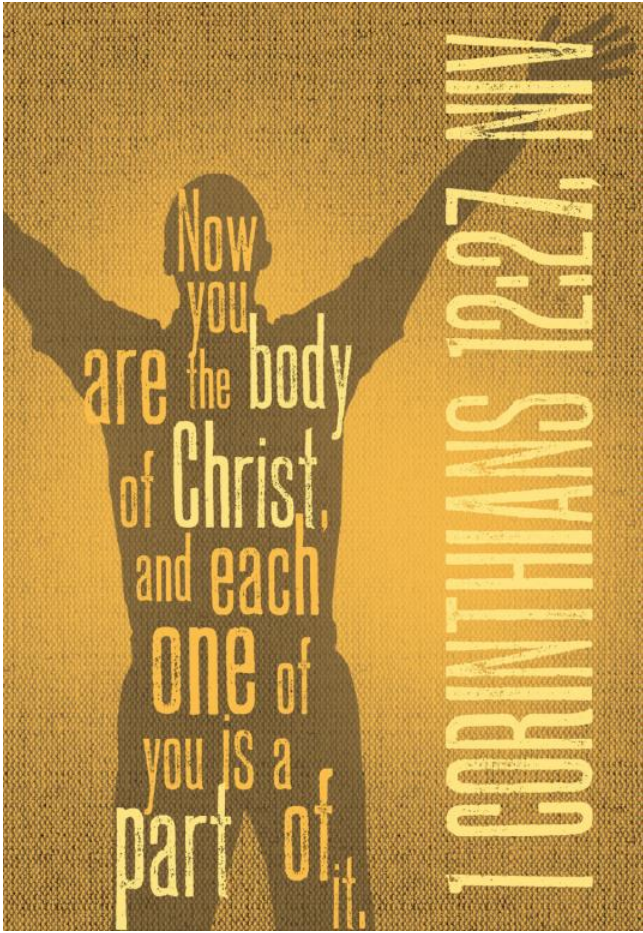
Fellowship/game night/potluck — Sat. Jan. 19, 5:00 pm at
Nick Jacobs residence

Bible Bowl — Sat. Mar. 16, 2019, at Bozeman on Romans
chapters 1-8

Ladies' Advance — April 25-27

Men's PEAKS — Thurs. through Sat. July 25-27, 2019

Family Camp 2019 — Aug. 30 - Sept. 2 at Bozeman church
property



Question of the week:

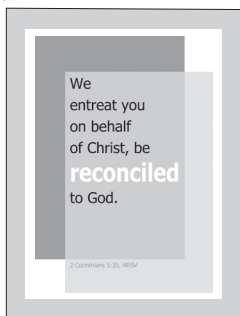
Jesus is very emphatic in the Sermon on the Mount that there are only two gates. Most are going through the broad gate that leads to destruction; but what is the characteristic of the narrow gate that leads to life?

Last week's question: What was the pronoun used to describe the one who came down to see what was going on at the tower of Babel? *Answer: "Us" (Genesis 11:7).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 93
Morning Assembly – 121
Evening Assembly – 75

Wednesday Night (1/9) – 77
Butte Lord's Day – 17
Great Falls Lord's Day – 65,109



By Way of Equality

God has never been interested in driving people into the ground, grinding the faces of the poor into the dirt (like those who oppressed Israel are pictured). He is the consummate Builder, the One who “gives to all life and breath and all things” (Acts 17:25). He therefore is not interested in extracting from mankind their offerings. “The God who made the world and all things in it,” this apostle had instructed the Athenians on Mars Hill, “since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with human hands, neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything” (Acts 17:24,25). The Almighty is interested, then, in free will offerings as a means of developing the faith of His disciples rather than actually needing the goods or money for His own use. And He is not trying

to pull from the pockets of Christians resources they do not possess. These principles are evident in his continuing instruction to the brethren in Corinth concerning their part in the collection for the poor saints in Judea.

- **What a man has** — In his exhortation to the brethren to complete the offering, he notes, commendably, that “there was the readiness to desire” to participate in the offering. Building off that comment, the apostle Paul adds, “For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a man has, not according to what he does not have” (2 Corinthians 8:12). In his instructions in the first epistle, Paul had put it in these terms: “Let each one put aside and save, as he may prosper” (1 Corinthians 16:2). This is why Paul was amazed at the brethren from Macedonia when he noted, “*Beyond their ability* they gave of their own accord” (2 Corinthians 8:3). He wants them to be willing to give—to have the “readiness.” But if the “readiness” was present, then the offering was acceptable according to what a man actually had.
- **Leveling the burden** — Religious leaders often persuade those over whom they have influence to impoverish themselves for the purpose of lining the pockets of those same religious leaders. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees,” Jesus is recorded as saying, “because you devour widows’ houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers” (Matthew 23:14). Thus Paul explains concerning this offering for the saints in Jerusalem: “For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality” (2 Corinthians 8:13). He further explains, “At this present time your abundance can be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may become a supply for your want, that there may be equality” (2 Corinthians 8:14). These instructions show a tremendous need on the part of those who would become recipients, with the understanding that should the situation be reversed in the future, the recipients would turn into the contributors.
- **Lesson from the wilderness** — When the children of Israel were wandering the forty years in the wilderness, they were fed with manna from heaven every day. Able-bodied men would be able to gather much quickly from the ground, whereas the elderly widow would have difficulty gathering enough. But at the end of the gathering, the ones who gathered an excess only had what they had been allotted, and those who were only able to gather a little miraculously had their quota. God was ultimately setting the stage for Christianity, wherein the brethren are to share across the board, meeting the needs of those in Christ who are truly destitute. Hence it is written: “He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack” (2 Corinthians 8:15).

God worked on a massive scale to allow this inequality between the Gentile brethren and the Jewish brethren to develop. God could have supplied the needs of the Jewish brethren just by increasing the crops of their ground. But He chose, in order to increase the faith of all brethren, to bring this situation about. How great is His wisdom, and how unfathomable are His ways!!

JAY WILSON

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