

WHILE THE RICH MAN LIVES, HE CONGRATULATES HIMSELF



Jeff and Ashley Landsgaard in costume
with Jeff's giving instructions for New Year's Eve party
Christ's Church, Bozeman, MT

**“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate
the manna in the wilderness, and they
died.”**

John 6:48,49

February 10, 2019!

Christ's Church

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

MORNING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 8:45 a.m.

Opening — Jay Wilson, Ben Boyer

M.C. — Bob Edgar

Stewardship exhortation — Gary DiPaolo

Communion Meditation — Phil Sutton

Preaching — Jay Wilson

EVENING SCHEDULE:

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

M.C. — Davis Ashley, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Mike Kover, **Tom McDunn**

Preaching — Jeff, Gunnar, Soren Landsgaard, **Jay Wilson**



This Wednesday,
February 13th –
7:00 p.m. —
*Character Traits of
Jesus*
— Phil Sutton

Fasting weekend and
potluck — Sat. and
L.D. Feb. 23,24

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 — Sat., Feb. 16, 5:00 pm, Dan Tuck
residence near Belgrade

OR Family Camp — Feb. 22-24 at Pleasant Hill church building

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 property



Question of the week:

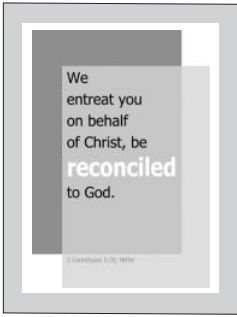
Who were the blind guides that Jesus said would strain out a gnat but swallow a camel?

Last week's question: The blood sprinkled on the doorposts and lintels of the houses of Israel the night of Passover would come from an animal from one of two groups. What were those two? *Answer: The sheep of the goats (Exodus 12:5).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 99
Morning Assembly – 121
Evening Assembly – 63

Wednesday Night (2/6) – 83
Butte Lord's Day – 9
Great Falls Lord's Day – 50,74



Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Sowing and Reaping

People—saints—often have good intentions, but things get in the way of their execution. Sometimes unforeseen circumstances, such as blocked traffic, interfere with plans. Sometimes illness, or unexpected emergencies, or a shift in priorities can prevent the good intention from being carried out. Sometimes it is just plain laziness, or “I just didn’t feel like doing it” that result in the good intention’s not being carried out. Thus, when the apostle Paul was planning for the offering for the saints in Judea, he had to put some things in motion to help the saints carry out their good intentions rather than having them blocked by circumstances or a weakness in their characters. “So I thought it necessary,” he explains, “to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange before-

hand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not affected by covetousness” (2 Corinthians 9:5). Even those dynamic, suffering, awesome first-century Christians could be affected by covetousness!

- **Sparingly/bountifully** — It is a clear principle in the physical realm that the ratio of the crop to the seed sown is related to the number of acres planted. The man who sows 20 acres of wheat in a small plot of ground is not likely to have the size of harvest as the farmer who plants 2000 acres of wheat. Both are dependent upon God for the harvest’s producing a yield, but the general rule is that the more that is sown, the greater the harvest. The same is true in the spiritual realm, for the God who backs the production in the physical realm is the same God who backs the production in the spiritual realm. Hence, as Paul is encouraging the brethren with regard to the offering for the poor saints of Jerusalem, he writes: “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6). There is certainly risk involved when the farmer plants, whether it be 20 or 2000 acres; he is ultimately dependent upon the Lord of the harvest to give him the return for his investment and labor. He sows in faith and cultivates in faith. The apostle is thus encouraging the brethren to have faith in God’s provision as they dig into their pocketbooks for this particular project actually set in motion by the Lord Jesus Himself. God promised to give major positive returns for those who would give bountifully for this offering.

*God helps disciples
get to the point where
they participate with a
cheerful heart!*

- **Purposed heart** — The brethren had already committed to participate in this special offering, as Paul mentions in these terms: “your previously promised bountiful gift.” In encouragement to have a strong finish in this matter of giving, since it was being collected over a period of time, the apostle continues. “Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart,” is his reminder, “not grudgingly or under compulsion; for the Lord loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). The brethren had been instructed in Paul’s previous letter to set aside as they had prospered; in other words, a pre-calculated portion or percentage. The encouragement, then, is for each of the saints to have the faith to fulfill that commitment, which initially flowed from a committed heart. The encouragement also included provisions for attitude adjustment if necessary, helping the disciples past giving grudgingly or feeling compelled, and being able to get to the point that they were participating with a cheerful heart.

God had a big picture strategy He was implementing. He could have just provided for the poor saints in Judea by pouring out His material blessings from the sky. But that would not have accomplished His long term plan and His agenda of bringing the Gentile and Jewish elements of the church closer together. Hence He placed Himself in the position of needing the Gentile brethren to make their contributions in faith in order that His magnificent plan be executed. He therefore promised that those who would sow bountifully would also reap bountifully. And this is a promise that He has never rescinded!

JAY WILSON