

***THESE THINGS YOU WICKED HAVE DONE,
AND I KEPT SILENCE;
YOU THOUGHT I WAS JUST LIKE YOU***



Luke Wilson and Nolan Tewell, of Billings, MT
working hard at Montana Youth Camp
Echo Valley Campground, Avon, MT

***“ ‘Go up to the feast [of
Tabernacles] yourselves; I do not
go up to this feast yet because My
time has not yet come.’ And having
said these things, He stayed in
Galilee.”***

John 7:8,9

July 14, 2019!

Christ's Church

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

MORNING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 8:45 a.m.

Opening — Jay Wilson, Gunnar Landsgaard

M.C. — Bob Edgar

Stewardship Exhortation — Phil Sutton

Communion Meditation — Charlie Jacobs

Preaching — Jay Wilson

EVENING SCHEDULE:

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

M.C. — Phil Sutton, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Matt Wilson, **George Stone**

Preaching — Josiah Sutton/Kaden Reijgers, **Jay Wilson**



**This Wednesday,
July 17th –
7:00 p.m. —
Character Traits of
Jesus
– Phil Sutton**

**July 27,28 - Fasting and
prayer for evange-
lism**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Men's PEAKS — Thurs. through Sat. July 25-27, 2019. Theme:
High Points from Hebrews

Vacation Bible School — July 29 - Aug. 1

Family Camp 2019 — Aug. 30 - Sept. 2 at Bozeman property.
Theme: Timeless Truths from the Torah



Question of the week:

What were the two main points of Paul's persuasion efforts to the Jewish leadership who met with him in Rome?

Last week's question: What did Nebuzaradan, the captain of the Babylonian guard, do to the temple, the great houses of the city, and the city wall? *Answer: He burned the buildings and trampled down the city wall (2 Kings 25:8-10).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 82
Morning Assembly – 94
Evening Assembly – 84

Wednesday Night (7/10) – 87
Butte Lord's Day – 17
Great Falls Lord's Day – 38,71

The Thorn in the Flesh

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV

The enemies of Paul in the church at Corinth were using every possible technique to attack him, and thus attack the doctrines he preached. Therefore the apostle has to go to some extremes to assure honest readers that he is not arrogant or puffed up as some of the Corinthian opposition were. After describing some of his sufferings on behalf of the gospel, he then described how he was “caught up into Paradise.” Paul by his own efforts could never accomplish that; it took a special act of God’s favor for that to happen. Consequently, Paul responds to his critics with these words, “On behalf of such a man I will boast.”

The apostle had introduced this section of his discourse with the comment that “boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable.”

The recalcitrant Corinthians had forced him to go this far in a major effort to save their everlasting souls. “For if I do wish to boast I shall not be foolish,” he adds to the discussion, “for I shall be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me” (2 Corinthians 12:6). Contrary to his blustering, high profile, puffed up opposition, the apostle is willing to let people have an honest look into his life!

- **Side consequence of great revelations** — The apostle Paul had just mentioned how he was caught up to the third heaven and heard inexpressible words. This, of course, would serve as a tremendous positive picture and encouragement for him, enabling him to go through the challenging persecutions he would continue to suffer for the gospel. It was very clear and real to him, as he stated it to the Philippians, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). But there was a side consequence to his having participated in such great visions. “And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations,” he continues his commenting, “for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself” (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- **The thorn in the flesh** — There has been much conjecture on this thorn in Paul’s flesh, as to what it might be. Some have thought it might be an eye problem (which there are indications that he could not see well), or problems with guys like Alexander the coppersmith, who, as Paul stated, “did me much harm” (2 Timothy 4:14). The apostle clearly points out that it was “a messenger of Satan.” It is this author’s perspective that this messenger (who delivers messages), this “thorn in the flesh,” was a demonic voice that would never let Paul forget that he was involved in the stoning of Stephen and was a ferocious persecutor of the church. Whatever it was, it would not go away! And its purpose was to keep Paul from exalting himself.
- **Paul’s entreaties** — This thorn in the flesh, as the apostle described the messenger from Satan, was obviously bothersome in a major degree. “Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me,” he informs the brethren. “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’” (2 Corinthians 12:8,9). The apostle was a servant of the Lord, as are modern saints. If the Lord would not remove this “thorn in the flesh” for the apostle, because the Lord had a different strategy in mind, then it is not surprising if the Lord will not always remove “thorns in the flesh” for modern saints either.

Whether it was the apostle Paul or whether it is one of the modern saints, the key is to continue to trust that God knows what He is doing. God is clearly involved, as in the case of Paul, with each of His children of faith on a personal basis and is working in each Christian’s life. When difficulties come, as they will, it is critical that the brother or sister move forward, walking by faith and not by sight. “Be faithful until death,” said the kind and loving Savior, “and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

The Lord will not always remove “thorns in the flesh” for modern saints either!