

**BE GRACIOUS TO ME, O GOD,
ACCORDING TO YOUR
LOVINGKINDNESS**



Jeff Biscoe, Lorenzo Serrano, Sasha Chertizky (of Minsk, Belarus), Caleb Wilson, Nolan Tewell, and Matthew Wilson, all of Billings, MT having a great time at the 48th annual men's PEAKS Delmoe Lake, between Butte and Whitehall, MT

“But when it was now the midst of the feast [of Tabernacles], Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach.”

John 7:14

August 11, 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 — Ed Donohue

Communion Meditation — Mike Kover

Preaching — Jay Wilson

EVENING SCHEDULE:

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

M.C. — Phil Sutton, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Jay Shoup, **Jay Wilson**

Preaching — Luke Jacobs/Ben Boyer, **Jay Wilson**



**This Wednesday,
Aug. 14th –
7:00 p.m. –
Character Traits of
Jesus
– Phil Sutton**

**August 24,25 - Fasting
and prayer for evangelism. Potluck after
assembly Aug. 25**

Register for MT Family Camp
at
christchurchonline.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Theme: Timeless Truths from the Torah

Spiritual Warriors' Weekend — Fri., Sat., Nov. 1,2

Bible Bowl — Sat. Mar. 14

Men's PEAKS — July 23-25

...FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUIT.

JAMES 3:17, NIV



Question of the week:

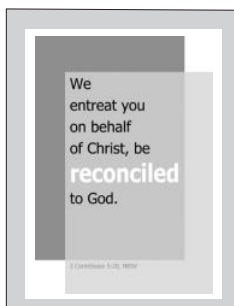
When Paul was trying to help the Corinthian brethren get a clearer perspective on what Christianity is all about, he described someone as “the scum of the world.” Who was he referring to?

Last week’s question: Who was king in Jerusalem when they reinstated the Passover but were too late to celebrate it during the first month of the Jewish religious calendar, and had to celebrate it during the second month? *Answer: Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 30:1;13-15).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 93
Morning Assembly – 117
Evening Assembly – 94

Wednesday Night (8/7) – 87
Butte Lord’s Day – 21
Great Falls Lord’s Day – 43,72



Comfort/Encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Some Upbuilding

It is clear from Paul's writing that he, from the beginning of his preaching in Corinth, had to be careful how he handled things. Take money, for example. He accepted financial assistance from other congregations such as Philippi, but not from Corinth. He had an idea from the outset that there were elements in the congregation that were money-driven and would use anything they could to destroy Paul's reputation and influence. Hence, as he put it, using a little hyperbole, "I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to serve you" (2 Corinthians 11:8). To communicate more clearly how he desired nothing from them, he emphasized, "I will not be a burden to you." Restating his point in terms of finances,

he animadverted, "I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls!"

- **"Crafty fellow"** — The apostle is going "overboard" to communicate his love for them, his warnings about false apostles and false teachers, and his desire for their proper eternities. "If I love you the more," he had just stated, "am I to be loved the less?" Then he goes back to his topic of not being a financial burden to them. "But be that as it may," he remarks, referring to the question of whether they loved him, "I did not burden you myself; nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit" (2 Corinthians 12:16). The "deceit" to which he is looking back is his "not taking wages from them" and "robbing other churches" in order to preach the gospel without charge; in other words, he was busy bringing the words of eternal life to them and not making any mention that this all cost money and time. The "crafty fellow" had a good premonition that money was going to be a big issue with some of them when he first started preaching to them.

- **No advantage taken** — Not only did Paul not accept any financial gifts from them directly, he did not use secondary people to wrangle "lucre" from them either. "Certainly I have not taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I?" (2 Corinthians 12:17). The apostle knew they could not document any such "advantage" because there was none. "I urged Titus to go," he notes, referring back to his discussing how he had sent Titus to check on their spiritual welfare, "and sent the brother with him" [an unnamed fellow worker who had come with Titus]. "Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit and walk in the same steps?" (2 Corinthians 12:17). Those were rhetorical questions, to which the only honest answer could be that no one, Paul or otherwise, was trying to filch money out of the Corinthians' pockets.

**"This is all for
your upbuilding,
beloved!"**

Paul, the "crafty fellow," is being indirect in his approach to the brethren; their sensitivities on these issues is pretty clear from the way he introduces the things he wants to bring forward. "All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you," he commented, leading into the idea that this had not been his major purpose. If they had processed a little deeper, they would have remembered from his first epistle that he had informed them that "it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court" (1 Corinthians 4:3). He was very conscious that his stewardship of the mysteries of Christ was to God, and to God he would answer. Compared to that, the Corinthians' opinion of him did not matter. "Actually, it is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ," he openly states, "and all for your upbuilding, beloved!" (2 Corinthians 12:19). The logical process is clear; he was confident of his standing with the Lord, and therefore with no need to defend himself to the Corinthians. His goal, then, consistent with everything else he had said along the way, was for their edification and salvation!

JAY WILSON