OH, THAT THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL WOULD COME OUT OF ZION

Some of the congregation in Great Falls
assembling at the first opportunity
coming out of the coronavirus "lock down"
Christ's Church in Great Falls, MT

"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true; for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I came from or where I am going.'"
John 8:14

May 17, 2020!

Christ's Church
Meeting at
30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman
2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls
401 W. Park St. — Butte

MORNING SCHEDULE: CHRISTSCHURCHONLINE.COM
  8:30 - Class online
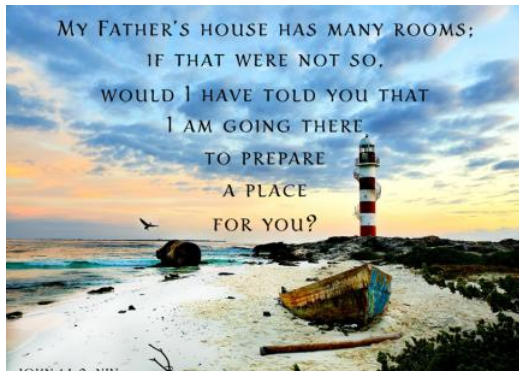 10:00 am - Assembly
      Lord's Supper Meditation —
          Cliff Renner

GREAT FALLS: 3:30 PM - STAN ZECH. (COMM.)
BUTTE - 7:45 PM - TOM MCDUNN (COMM.)

This Wednesday, May 20th – 7:00 p.m. — christschurchonline.com

Bozeman -- Fasting and prayer for evangelism and overcoming coronavirus this weekend, 23,24.

Catch us live or archived:
livestream.com/ccib
christschurchonline.com
Also check out the youtube videos on targetingtruth.com,
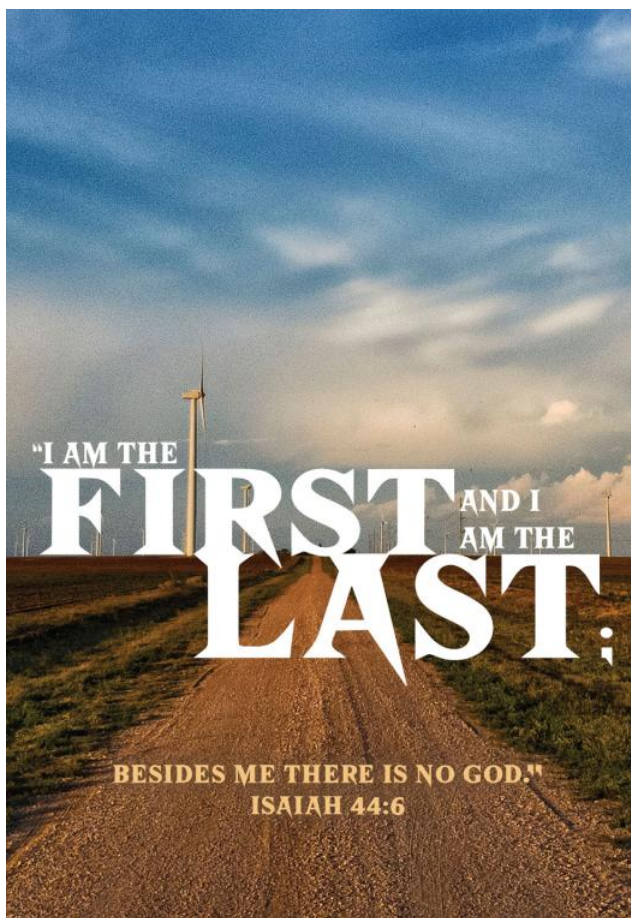and Innerman Radio on youtube

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Badlands Family Camp — May 23-25, near-Glendive, MT
Montana Youth Camp — canceled; cmpgrd closed
Men's PEAKS — July 23-25; theme: "Messages from Babylon"
Family Camp 2020 — Sept. 4-7

"I AM THE **FIRST** AND I AM THE **LAST**; BESIDES ME THERE IS NO GOD."
ISAIAH 44:6

Question of the week:

Who prevented Saul's son Jonathan from being executed when he unknowingly violated the king's order on fasting and ate some honey from a honeycomb?

Last week's question: In a hot discussion with the Jewish leadership who were trying to kill Him, Jesus said that if they believed one of the Old Testament prophets, they would believe Him. Who was that Old Testament prophet? *Answer: Moses (John 5:46).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: (NOTE: ONLINE IS # OF COMPUTERS; # OF PEOPLE GREATER)
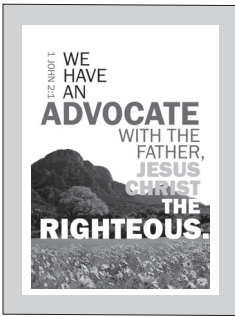
Bible School — --	Wednesday Night (5/13) — 75+
Morning Assembly — 55 (100+)	Butte Lord's Day — 15
Evening Assembly — --	GF Lord's Day (*Wed*)— --,61,--

Lots of Love from the Letters of John …

"Love," not "Kill" Your Brother

As long as the apostle John keeps talking about "love," it must be reiterated that "loving your brother" means being concerned about his eternity as the first priority. When the priest of Zeus brought oxen and garlands to sacrifice with the crowds in celebration of Paul's healing a man in Lystra, that was not an act of "love," although it might have seemed so to the ignorant or emotionally carried away people present. When that priest wanted to offer a sacrifice to Zeus, he was in the process of propagandizing the pagans, and working on sending their souls to hell. Someone who is a propagandist for doctrines that send people's souls to hell does not love them, regardless of how "kind, compassionate, caring," or "helpful" he may seem.

● *Message from the beginning* — "Practicing righteousness" is connected with "loving your brother"; "practicing sin" is connected with "hating your brother." "Anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God," John has just stated, to which he appends, "nor the one who does not love his brother." Jesus Christ, in His own words, came into the world "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The devil, by contrast, "who has sinned from the beginning," has as his goal the confusion and resultant destruction of the human race. When a person becomes a Christian, he is "delivered from the domain of darkness, and transferred into the kingdom" of Christ (Colossians 1:13,14). The general idea, then, is that the new creation is to turn from helping Satan carry out his agenda to working with Christ and helping Him to seek and to save the lost. "For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning," John therefore writes, "that we should love one another" (1 John 3:11). John's earnest desire is that the brethren maintain their focus on sound doctrine and reaching the lost with the gospel.

● *"Not as Cain"* — The Gnostic antichrists who were working inside the late first century congregations were destroying the eternities of any brethren whom they could get sucked into their false doctrines. That, of course, is not love, regardless of how personable these purveyors of falsehood might be. The faithful brethren, then, were exhorted to continue loving the brethren, and not to be "as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother" (1 John 3:12). Genesis, in its depiction of the Cain / Abel story (a true one!), does not mention the devil; it only mentions that "sin is crouching" at Cain's door (Genesis

> **The antichrists "kill their brothers" because the brothers' deeds are righteous**

4:7). The apostle John here lets his readers know that the murderous sin of Cain was instigated by "the evil one." The apostle then poses a question: "And for what reason did he slay him?" The answer comes, directed at these antichrists hard at work inside the congregations, "Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous."

The saints of God, whose picture is such that they cannot sin because they are born of God, end up "practicing righteousness" in imitation of the practicing righteousness of Christ Himself. The Gnostics, operating under the proposition that the body is bad, of course are going to be practicing sin and furthering the works of the devil. They, in effect, like Cain, "are of the evil one." They, like Satan ("Satan" means "adversary") are going to be direct adversaries of those who were preaching the truth. They, like the devil ("devil" means "one who slanders") are going to be slandering those who were taking the gospel to the lost and living righteous lives—righteous so as to cause no hindrance to the gospel. Why would they engage in such opposition and engage in such slander? Their minds were set on the things of the flesh, and "the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God" (Romans 8:7). In consequence, they were hostile toward those who were working God's program; they were walking in the footsteps of Cain. Why would they "kill" their brothers? Because their brothers' deeds were righteous, and theirs were evil. Modern saints: pay attention!!

JAY WILSON