# SAVE ME, O GOD, BY YOUR NAME, AND VINDICATE ME BY YOUR POWER



Some of the congregation in Butte on the first assembly during the coronavirus "lock down" Christ's Church in Butte, MT

"Even in your law it has been written, that the testimony of two men is true. I am He who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."

John 8:17,18

# May 31, 2020!



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 — Dan Tuck

GREAT FALLS: 3:30 PM - BRAD SMITH (COMM.)
BUTTE - 7:45 PM - KODY MINTYALA (COMM.)

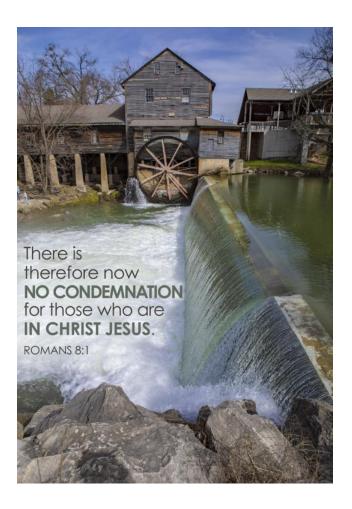


This Wednesday, June 3rd – 7:00 p.m. – christschurchonline. com

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:

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



#### Question of the week:

From what branch of the Canaanites did David capture the city of Jerusalem?

Last week's question: What time of year is the "Feast of Dedication"? Answer: The Feast of Dedication [Hanukkah] was in winter (usually December)(John 10:22,23).

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: (SAINTS FROM BZN AND GF JOINED 153 AT BADLANDS CAMP)

Bible School — -- (# online) Morning Assembly — 47 (100+) Evening Assembly — -- Wednesday Night (5/27) — 45 (100+) Butte Lord's Day — 18 GF Lord's Day (*Wed*) — --,47,-- WE HAVE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS.

Lots of Love from the Letters of John ...

### **Laying Down Our Lives**

The apostle John frequently uses the phrase "we know" in his comments to faithful brethren. This certainty of "knowledge" is based on factual presentations of the gospel and scriptural teaching rather than propaganda or "hype." The apostle begins his first epistle by taking his readers back to facts of which John was a witness. "What we have heard," says he of himself and the other apostles, "what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled..." They had visible, audible, and tangible proof that Jesus was resurrected with a "flesh and bones" body, albeit with nail holes and spear wounds still evident. Jesus was indeed raised from the dead, and the gospel truths followed, explained by logical presentations beginning

from that point. Thus the words of John, backed by the Holy Spirit's inspiration, "we know," are factual words and not mere promotional material.

- Knowing love—"We know that we have come to know Him," John had earlier stated, in one of his earlier "we know" statements (1 John 2:3). "We know that we are in Him," he had added (1 John 2:5). Another statement was just exposited by the apostle, saying, "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). In the process of exposing the antichrists (who were "haters"), the apostle now points out that, "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16). This is once again a foundational Biblical principle. The apostle Paul pointed out this truth, and a powerful and reassuring truth. "But God demonstrates His love toward us," stresses that there is a factual rather than purely emotional basis for understanding that God loves each person, "in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). And what a demonstration! It is impossible for a rational person to contemplate what Jesus went through in paying the price for each individual's sin, and not process that as love in the highest degree. So if someone is just not "feeling the love," it is because he is unwilling to process the significance of the demonstration. "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us!"
- ▼ What we should do It is wonderful that Jesus loves people enough to lay down His life for them. It is wonderful that a lost-and-damned-to-hell-sinner can be rescued from the domain of darkness and be transferred into the kingdom of light. Is this rescued, or "saved," individual simply to bask in the wonders of his salvation and the blessings of like-minded brethren? Here is the inspired answer: "and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16).

JESUS LAID DOWN
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What does "laying down our lives for the brethren" look like? What are the practical applications of this precept?

There is a whole set of writings called "the new covenant" which gives principles and more detailed instructions in what it means to lay down our lives for the brethren. First of all, there will not be any "brethren" if the lost are not being saved. It is important to remember that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly," and that we, in imitation of the Master, are to go and do likewise. Secondly, "we" are to do everything we can, inside the guidelines the new covenant lays out for us, to love and edify the brethren. This ranges from "Be hospitable to one another without complaint," to "Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so by the strength which God supplies" (1 Peter 4:9,11). This comes under the heading, consistent with the apostle John's imprecations, of "above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called," was the apostle Paul's entreaty, "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). There are hundreds of pages more of instruction on "laying down our lives for the brethren," if we need them!

JAY WILSON