# I would hasten to my place of refuge, from the stormy wind and tempest



Su Nguyen, on the right, enjoys some great fellowship under the tent
with Ethan, Maddie, Owen, and Jennifer Milller
Family Camp 2020
Christ's Church, Bozeman, MT

**"I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you have heard from your father."**

*John 8:38*

# September 20, 2020!

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

**BOZEMAN** 8:45 - (Joe Shanahan)
    9:00 am - classes
    10:00 am - Assembly
        St'dship - Shawn O'Connell
        L.S. - Zac Dschaak
        Preaching - Luke Wilson

**GREAT FALLS -** 2:45 - Opening
    3:00 pm - classes
    4:00 pm - Assembly
        Stewardship - Dan McDunn
        L.S. - Steve Durnan
        Preaching - Jay Wilson

**BUTTE -** 7:30 pm - Classes
    8:15 pm - Assembly
        L.S. - Cole Hunsicker
        Preaching - Jay Wilson

**Bozeman** -
Potluck **fellowship dinner** at church building following assembly Sept. 27
**Prayer and fasting** weekend

**Great Falls -**
**Mighty Men** - Sept. 27
**Growing God's Flowers** - Sept. 27



You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth ...

Psalm 65:5, NIV

**BOZEMAN -**
*Wed. night,* 7:00 pm: Phil Sutton on 1 Peter

**GREAT FALLS -**
*Wed. night*, 7:00 pm: Luke Wilson - evangelism PowerPoints

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christschurchonline.com
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and Innerman Radio on youtube
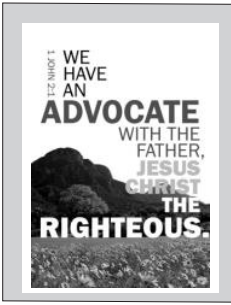
**Question of the week:**

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, he said that there was only one thing that he wanted to find out from them. What was it?

Last week's question: When the Lord speaking through Isaiah excoriated those who "add house to house," He also spoke of the people going into exile or slavery. Why? *Answer: Because of their lack of knowledge (Isaiah 5:13).*

## Attendance Last Week:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bible School – 96 | Wednesday Night (9/16) – 71 |
| Morning Assembly – 121 | Butte Lord's Day – 20 |
| Evening Assembly – -- | GF Lord's Day  (*Wed*) – 49,63 ,*W-60* |

Lots of Love from the Letters of John …

## *Who Really Loves God?*

Probably no word is bandied about meaninglessly more than "love." The problem with such bandying is the major destructive consequences which follow. Words are verbal representations of mental concepts, and an incorrect mental concept leads people's minds down the wrong road. Hollywood, for example, portrays love as feeling; "follow your heart" instead of using your head. That misdirection, driven by cinema's influence over countless minds, has contributed in a major way to the breakup of the family, and has sent morals spiraling into the mud tank. Words do have meaning, and concepts have consequences.

The apostle John works constantly on the theme of "love." The antichrists who operated within the early church were very destructive, both to the saints' eternities and to their discipline in living up to Christian moral values. In their masquerade as proclaimers of a "new gospel," they would pretend to be loving and kind in order to provide the façade for their continuing exploitation of the brethren. Thus John repeatedly hammers on what true love is in his attempt to get the brethren to see through the clever façades of those antichrists.

◆ **"I love God" —** The ranks of mankind are thick with those who say, "I love God." "God," apart from the specific revelation of Him given in the Bible through Jesus Christ, is an ethereal concept which can be manipulated to serve the individual's desires. Such a "God" allows a person to believe what he wants to believe, and allows him to do (or not to do) whatever he wishes. The two great commandments coming from the Old Testament writings establish the connection between loving God and loving people. But the apostle John puts a stronger exclamation point to the connection: "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother," the apostle expostulates, "he is a liar!" (1 John 4:20). Underneath the façade, the antichrists of the first century actually hated the brethren, and were doing their best to send them down the road that leads to hell. They are being exposed as liars before the eyes of those first century congregations.

> **If you really love God, you will love the soul of every person.**

◆ **Loving what you can see —** Things in the physical realm are easier to understand than things in the spiritual realm. God uses the principle of "first the natural, then the spiritual" over and over again in communicating things of a spiritual nature to man. The physical temple of Solomon, for example, is used to communicate the value and beauty of the spiritual temple of God in the new covenant, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence John makes his statement: "for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom has he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). There is no such thing as loving God apart from loving the lost and caring for fellow Christians.

-n **The commandment —** Jesus clearly came from heaven to seek and to save that which was lost. In His parables, He would talk about leaving the safe sheep to find the one that was lost. This is the means by which the lost and spiritually dying people of the world—those trapped in a darkness that they personally cannot escape without heaven's help—become the brothers of Jesus. And God expects His spiritual children to take on His character and His fruit of the Spirit. "And this commandment we have from Him," avers the apostle, "that the one who loves God should love His brother also" (1 John 4:21). A commandment, no less!!

The "bottom line" is simple: if you really love God, you will love the soul of every person with whom you come in contact. If that person is dead in his sins and trespasses, you try to save him. If he is a brother in Christ, you try to edify, encourage, and strengthen him. You exhibit perseverance and patience, concern and compassion, encouragement and exhortation, that you may by all means save some and present every man complete in Christ.