

**Cast your burden upon the Lord, and
He will sustain you; He will never
allow the righteous to be shaken**



Nolan Tewell and Mequel Baril, both of Billings, MT
co-workers, and working hard
Spiritual Warriors' Weekend
Christ's Church in Bozeman, MT

**“The Jews said to Him, ‘Now we know
that You have a demon. Abraham died,
and the prophets died also; and You say,
“If anyone keeps My word, he shall never
taste death.” ’ ”**

John 8:52

December 20, 2020!

Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

400 W. Park St. — Butte

BOZEMAN 8:45 -

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

Prayer - Randall Ferguson

L.S. - Rick Vaught

Preaching - Jay Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM - DEC. 6

L.S. - Brian Schweitzer

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Jared DuPaul

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

Stewardship - Stan Zech

L.S. - Zac Zech

Preaching - Caleb Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman -

Fellowship dinner - Dec. 20 following assembly

Welcome the New Year, 7:00 pm

Thurs. Dec. 31. Bring games, snacks, and wear your Harvest Party costume

Great Falls -

Prayer/Fasting - Dec. 20



BOZEMAN -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Phil Sutton on 1 Peter

GREAT FALLS -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Jay Wilson - Creation vs. Evolution Power-Points and videos

Butte -

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl - Sat. Mar. 13 at Bozeman church building

MT Ladies' Advance April 8-10 - Billings ladies sponsoring

Men's PEAKS - July 22-24, 2021

2021 Family Camp - Sept. 3-6



Question of the week:

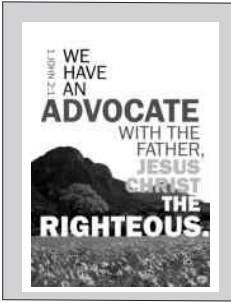
Through the prophet Habakkuk God spoke of time when He would march through the earth and in anger trample the nations. For what purpose did He go forth for His people?

Last week's question: How was Gaius, who is the recipient of John's third epistle, to send brethren (especially strangers) on their way? *Answer: "in a manner worthy of God" (3 John 1:6).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 91
Morning Assembly – 108
Evening Assembly – 56

Wednesday Night (12/9) – 69
Butte Lord's Day – 18
GF Lord's Day (Wed) – 70,85, W-97



Lots of Love from the Letters of John ...

"Guard Yourself from Idols"

God's long war against idolatry did not end with the resurrection and ascension of Christ. It continues, and will continue, until Jesus comes again. As John closes his first epistle, he makes sweeping statements about how God has given saints understanding (through what is written by the New Testament prophets and the apostles) that "we might know Him who is true," and "we are in Him who is true." This understanding of Jesus Christ, given in the complete revelation of the word of God, clearly establishes that "God is light" and "God is love." Knowing this God and being in Him in Jesus Christ make it possible for the saint to have fellowship with Him who is, who was, and who is to come. "This is the true God and eternal life." After completing these great encompassing statements, the apostle closes with these abrupt words: "Little children, guard yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21). God's long war against idolatry did not end with the resurrection and ascension of Christ!

- ◆ **Work of the antichrists** — The underlying work of the antichrists in the first century congregations was to turn saints away from the true Christ. The false Christ that these teachers and preachers were presenting was a Jesus who did not come in a physical body and therefore did not physically rise from the dead. The corollaries to these basic propositions are that Christians' bodies are sinful and that Christians therefore are locked into lives of sin. Because concepts, rightly or wrongly held, direct people's thinking, the effect of the antichrist doctrine was that people in the church would be sinful, fleshly, worldly, hateful, and divisive (to name just a few characteristics). Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, these antichrists and their followers would be attacking and putting pressure on the true saints to compromise their doctrine and their lifestyles.

- ◆ **False Christs** — It is possible, in the words of the apostle Paul, for someone to preach "another Jesus," talk about "another gospel," and speak of "receiving another Spirit" (2 Corinthians 11:4). Even though the same terminology is deceptively used, this "other Jesus" is not the Jesus of the Bible, and therefore is an idol raised up against the knowledge that God has graciously imparted through His word. As John closes his first epistle, he thus speaks in terms of "we know Him who is true." He says, referring to God, "we are in Him who is true," giving clarifying information as a parallel instructive thought, "in His Son Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ as revealed in the scripture is therefore the true God. "This is the true God," John pointedly states, adding, "and eternal life." His final words seem abrupt apart from the background of the long war against Satan's trickery of moving people into worshiping idols. But the false Christ portrayed by the antichrists was such an idol, although without physical form. "Little children," is John's earnest exhortation, "guard yourselves from idols."

The long war against idolatry is not over. A "Jesus" whose name is used at a sprinkling (for "baptism") ceremony is not the Jesus of the Bible. A "Jesus" who is "accepted into the heart" by prayer is not the Jesus of the Bible. The Jesus of the Bible is the One that the prospective saint is "immersed into." The Jesus of the Bible is the One who now dwells in the heart of the saint, being described as "receiving the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38. Inside what are called "churches of Christ" is a "Jesus" similar to the antichrists of the first century. This "Jesus" had a body that was different from ours, and because He was different was why "He didn't sin" and why "we will continue to do so." But the scripture is clear and emphatic: "He had to be made like His brethren in all things" (Hebrews 2:17). This includes the point that He was "tempted in all things as we are"; He was one hundred per cent human! Yet "He was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He thus left us an example that we should walk in His footsteps (1 Peter 2:21). "My little children," is John's pleading, "I am writing these things to you that you may not sin" (1 John 2:1). The abrupt warning of the apostle John still stands: "Little children, guard yourselves from idols."

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against idolatry
is not over.**

JAY WILSON