

**THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME ATTACK, THEY LURK,  
THEY WATCH MY STEPS, AS THEY HAVE WAITED  
TO TAKE MY LIFE**



Cole Hunsicker, of Boulder, MT  
giving a challenging and excellent communion meditation  
Christ's Church  
Butte, MT

**“Jesus answered, ‘It was neither that  
this man sinned, nor his parents; but  
it was in order that the works of God  
might be displayed in him.’ ”**

***John 9:3***

“Getting the Lord’s work done in 2021!!”

## February 14, 2021

### Christ’s Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

400 W. Park St. — Butte

**BOZEMAN** 8:45 - Elliot Ashley

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

Prayer med. - Phil Sutton

L.S. - Jim Mitchell

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -**

L.S. - Dan Tuck

**GREAT FALLS** - 2:45 - John Odell

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

Stewardship - Cody Kruk

L.S. - Bobo Womagno

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**BUTTE** - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Tom McDunn

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**Bozeman** -

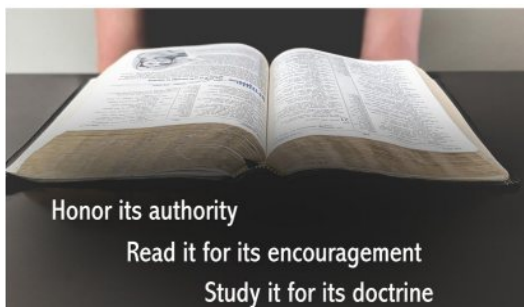
Prayer/fasting weekend, Feb. 27,28

with potluck following assembly.

Bring games to play for fun fellowship following potluck.

**Butte** -

Fellowship dinner - Feb. 21



**BOZEMAN** -

**Wed. night**, 7:00 pm:

Phil Sutton on 1 Peter

**GREAT FALLS** -

**Wed. night**, 7:00 pm:

Caleb Wilson

**Great Falls** -

Prayer and fasting - Feb. 21

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Bible Bowl** - Sat. Mar. 13 at Bozeman

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

**Badlands Family Camp** - May 28-31

**Men's PEAKS** - July 22-24, 2021

**2021 Family Camp** - Sept. 3-6



**BUT GOD  
RAISED HIM  
FROM THE  
DEAD.**

**ACTS 13:30**

**Question of the week:**

What was offered once a year on the horns of the altar of incense which stood just outside the veil that separated the holy of holies from the holy place?

Last week's question: When Jesus was describing the conditions leading up to the AD 70 destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, He said something would happen when lawlessness is increased. What was it?  
*Answer: Most people's love will grow cold (Matthew 24:12).*

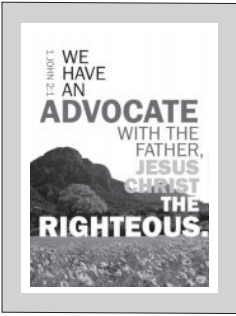
**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:**

Bible School – 98  
Morning Assembly – 114  
Evening Assembly – 66

Wednesday Night (2/10) – 80  
Butte Lord's Day – 18  
GF Lord's Day (Wed) – 79,88 W-63

Lots of Love from the Letters of John ...

## The Deeds of Diotrophes



There were times in the Biblically recorded history of the church when things were peaceful. After the immersion / conversion of Saul of Tarsus, there was some relaxation from the persecution in which he was the driving force. Luke the physician and inspired historian noted, "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase" (Acts 9:31). Because those times were rare, when they happened, the scripture duly makes its annotation. Generally, however, there were persecutions without and challenges within. And when the apostle John was writing his epistles, the antichrist movement within was

creating chaos and many were being pulled into the false doctrines of the antichrist philosophy. It should have been peaceful, but it wasn't.

- **"Does not accept what we say"** — In this letter addressed to Gaius, who was clearly a leader in a local church, John comments on an internal situation in the congregation. "I wrote something to the church," he informs the faithful brother, "but Diotrophes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say" (3 John 1:9). Diotrophes had managed to catapult himself into a position of leadership inside that congregation, and was not about to listen to John or any of the other people who would teach sound doctrine. The conclusion to be drawn is that Diotrophes was teaching false doctrine, and therefore one of the antichrist opposition against which the apostle was having to engage so ferociously.
- **Calling out the opposition** — The apostles, during their time with Jesus while He was still on earth, ended up being trained and tested men. John, now being about another sixty years tested and experienced, in true love and concern for the souls of the saints, was not about to be intimidated by such as Diotrophes. "For this reason," John adverts, referring to Diotrophes' refusal to listen to doctrine and instruction from the apostle, "if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words..." (3 John 1:10). Moderns, through this interchange, get a glimpse into the workings of the antichrist opposition. They were engaged in slander, using a "win at any cost" approach in shutting down the apostles' doctrine and imposing their own twisted views on the congregations. John continues, "and not satisfied with this, neither does he himself receive the brethren, and he forbids those who desire to do so, and puts them out of the church." Diotrophes was engaged in a "scorched earth policy" of shutting down all contact with those who would teach the brethren the true gospel, and step-by-step imposing his antichrist views on the remaining congregation. The ones who still held forth for the truth of the ancient gospel were being expelled!

The battle of goodness, truth, and light against the forces of evil, lies, and darkness is intense, and will be ongoing until the return of the glorious Christ. The brethren then, and hence the brethren now, are exhorted, "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good" (3 John 1:11). God's program of "truth" cannot advance by the use of evil techniques. Saints thus have always been exhorted to do what is right regardless of how hopeless it may seem. "Do not be overcome with evil," was the apostle Paul's eternal exhortation, "but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). "Good" will eventually overpower "evil." The apostle John superadds, "The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God."

John said that when he came to "the church," he would call attention to the deeds of Diotrophes. For all that individual's pretense, he was in fact an evil, evil man using "wicked words" and unjustly accusing John and those working with him. The antichrists then and now were men "of flesh," opposed to the doctrines which produce practicing righteousness, and deeply hostile toward God, regardless of the language in which they attempted to cloak their agenda. The exhortation is for brethren to "imitate good." It can be done!!

**Diotrophes was  
an evil man  
using "wicked  
words."**