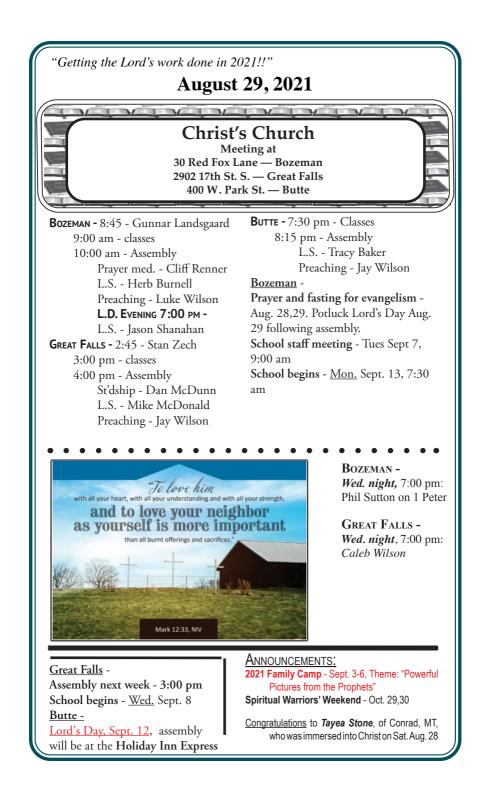
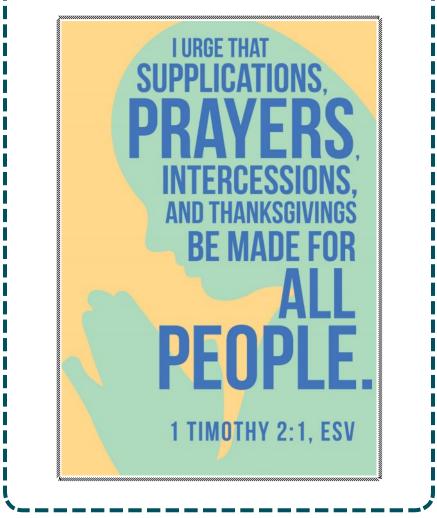
O God, shatter their teeth in their mouth; break out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord



Kirk Hinebaugh, cattle rancher from Glendive, MT Having the "gospel gun" on the stump, and the "backup" on his side preaching Montana style 50th annual Men's Peaks Delmoe Reservoir, near Butte, MT

The Pharisees answered and said to the blind man, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they put him out of the synagogue. *John 9:34*





Question of the week:

In Psalm 40, Jesus prophetically spoke through David and mentioned "the scroll of the book." What was written "in the scroll of the book"?

Last week's question: In discussing the divisions in the church at Corinth and the Lord's Supper, what was Paul's comment about a person who does not judge the body rightly? *Answer: He eats and drinks judg-ment to himself (1 Corinthians 11:29).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 90 Morning Assembly – 108 Evening Assembly – 80

Wednesday Night (8/25) – 78 Butte Lord's Day – 15 GF Lord's Day – 100,120 *Wed. - 54*



Acts Alive ..

Did You Receive the Holy Spirit?

As Paul finished his speaking tour in the rugged highlands of central Turkey, he reached the seacoast at Ephesus. Here he desired to continue the discussion with the Jews he had begun earlier in the synagogue on his way from Corinth to Antioch. Unknown to Paul, at first anyway, was the coming of Apollos to Ephesus, and his teaching many of the Jews there about Christ knowing, however, only the immersion of John. Paul's tentmaking brother in Christ from Corinth, Aquila, and his wife, Priscilla, had talked to Apollos and corrected his teaching about immersion. Undoubtedly, Priscilla and Aquila spoke of these things to Paul when he arrived in Ephesus, and Paul thus knew that some of Apollos' disciples still lacked complete knowledge concerning

immersion.

So when Paul found some of these disciples in Ephesus, he asked them a very unusual question: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" (Acts 19:2). This question was unusual because it was rarely (if ever) asked of other disciples of Christ in the recorded annals of the New Testament. It is also a very important question, because if a person is not indwelt by the Spirit of the living God, he does not belong to Christ (Romans 8:9-11). These disciples' response: "We have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

Given the seriousness of the matter of the indwelling Spirit, Paul knew something was wrong. His next question: "Into what then were you immersed?" (Acts 19:3). This question, at this point, unlocks—for us of our time who must look back into the scripture for our under-

standing of the teaching of the apostles—the relationship Spirit. "Into what were you immersed?" said he. They should have been immersed *into Christ* as the rest of the New Testament teaches.

They explained: "Into John's immersion." And that was the problem. John's immersion never promised the indwelling Spirit, only a forgiveness of sins while the Old Covenant was still in effect. "John immersed," said Paul, "with the immersion of repentance [for forgiveness of sins—see Luke 3:3], telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus" (Acts 19:4). of immersion and the Holy

John's immersion did not promise the indwelling Spirit.

"And when they heard this, they were immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:5). New Covenant immersion grants as a gift the indwelling Holy Spirit to every believer throughout the entire church age, as contrasted to "immersion in the Spirit," which only happened twice, and "the gifts of the Spirit," which only lasted until those upon whom the apostles laid hands passed from earth. The promised Holy Spirit is as much a part—more, even—of the teaching on immersion as is forgiveness of sins, and must, by New Testament precedent, be taught as part of the conversion process.

Paul then laid hands on them, and as an apostle, could pass on gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the Spirit's will (I Corinthians 12:4-11). "And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying" (Acts 19:6). Without exception, the gifts of the Holy Spirit (or *manifestations* of the Spirit) were given through the laying on of the apostles' hands. Even those who possessed the gifts were unable to pass them on. With the passing of the apostles from earth, the gifts of the Spirit died out, and no one today possesses any of the special gifts, such as speaking in tongues or prophesying. But here, the apostle lays hands on these twelve men, and the gifts of the Spirit are given as a sign verifying the action of the apostle in re-immersing these disciples, and emphasizing the importance of the indwelling Spirit as a salvation and eternity issue.

Question for you: Have you been immersed to receive the indwelling Spirit? Can you prove from the word of God that you received the Holy Spirit "when you believed"?

JAY WILSON