For behold, they have set an ambush for my life; fierce men launch an attack against me



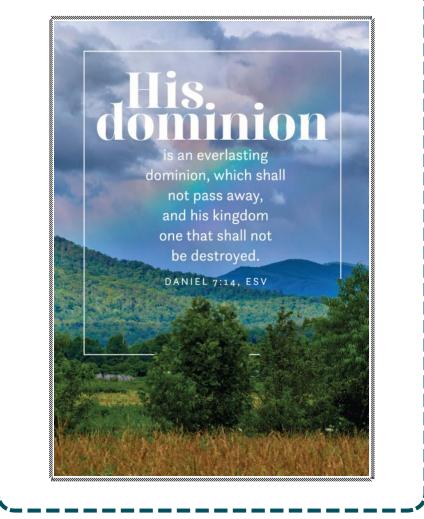
Matt Mozingo of Missoula, MT, and Justin Bolton of Billings, MT good fellowship among brethren 48th annual Family Camp Christ's Church, Bozeman, MT

"When [the shepherd] puts forth all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

John 10:4



Nov. 7 - Fellowship dinner following assembly



Question of the week:

Why was Jeremiah thrown into the empty and muddy cistern in the days of King Zedekiah of Jerusalem?

Last week's question: When the apostle Paul is discussing the 2nd coming of Christ in 1 Thess. 5, he says that those who get drunk, get drunk at night. By contrast, how are those who are of "the day" described? *Answer: Sober (1 Thessalonians 5:8).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 88 Morning Assembly – 114 Evening Assembly – 65

Wednesday Night (10/20) – 69 Butte Lord's Day – 13 GF Lord's Day – 68,89, *Wed.* - 56



Acts Alive ...

Paul's "Personal Testimony"

This is an age where many give their "personal testimonies." The purpose of these testimonies is supposedly to tell you what great things their Jesus did for them in saving their souls, and thus you are to believe in that same Jesus. Unfortunately, it is possible — indeed probable — for them to preach "another Jesus" (I Cor. 11:4), who is not the Jesus of the New Testament.

So... whose testimony can we believe? The only testimony which has been sufficiently validated by God to save the souls of men is the testimony recorded in the sacred writings of the Bible. The others may be interesting, but they also may be bogus.

One such validated testimony is that of the apostle Paul. And you

will note how this testimony — given to a crowd of Jews who, but for the protection of a Roman guard, would have put to death this apostle — differs from the testimony that would be given by many modern so-called evangelists.

Paul made his defense in Hebrew [an Aramaic dialect of New Testament times], thus establishing his credentials to the mob as being educated in the language and customs of the fathers. He established the following points:

- He was a Jew, taught by the most respected teachers, zealous for the Law.
- He persecuted Christians, as the High Priest known personally to him and the Sanhedrin could testify.
- As he approached Damascus with authority from the High Priest to arrest Christians there, he was blinded and fell to the ground.
- Jesus of Nazareth spoke to Paul, accusing him of persecuting Jesus.
- Paul then believed in the resurrected Christ, repented of past sins, and confessed Jesus as Lord.
- Three days later, a Jewish Christian named Ananias was sent by Jesus to Paul, and told him, "Arise, and beimmersed, and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16). This, of course, contradicts the denizens of this present evil age, who would have you believe that Paul's sins were washed away on the Damascus Road. They would have you believe that Ananias did not know what he was talking about even though Jesus person-

ally sent him as His trusted messenger. Or they would have you believe that Paul really was told to arise, have his sins washed away by calling on Jesus' name, and then be immersed. The scripture, as it is written, is a problem for those who will not believe, but it is a source of great rejoicing and confidence for those who pay attention to the Word of God's remarkable consistency.

- Then Paul returned to the temple in Jerusalem, and while praying there, fell into a trance. Jesus again spoke to him, saying, "Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me" (Acts 22:18).
- This testimony, although unpopular with men, is approved by God!
- Paul responded, "Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I
 used to imprison and beat those who believed in You. And when the blood of your witness
 Stephen was being shed, I was standing by approving, and watching out for the cloaks
 of those who were slaving him" (Acts 22:20).
- Then Paul hit the hostile Jewish crowd with the statement they just could not bear: "And [Jesus] said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles' " (Acts 22:21).

The idea of anyone being sent to the Gentiles by God made the whole testimony unbelievable to these Jews. They were throwing their coats and dirt in the air, and crying for Paul's blood. "Away with such a fellow from the earth," they said.

This testimony, though unpopular with men, was approved by God. While Paul's testimony about his being sent to the Gentiles was unpopular with the Jewish audience, it did not change the fact that his testimony was the truth. While Paul's testimony that he was correctly instructed, "Arise, and be immersed, and wash away your sins, calling on His name," is unpopular with the modern audience does not change the fact that his testimony was true. It was true for Paul and the first century saints, and it is true now. Preach and teach it!