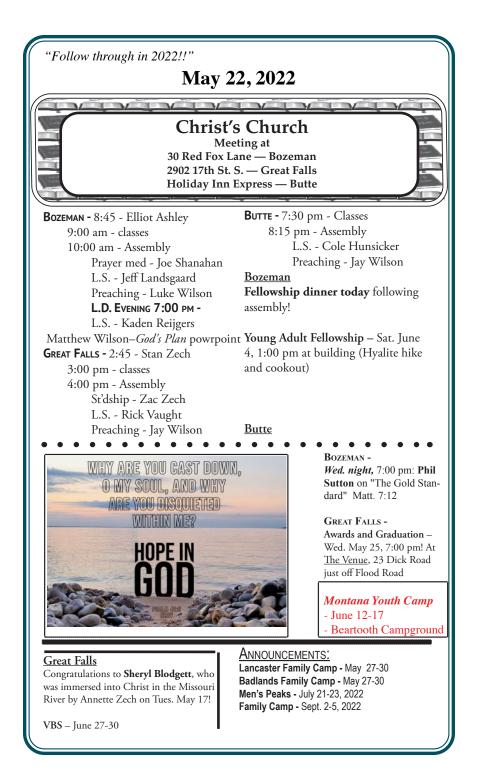
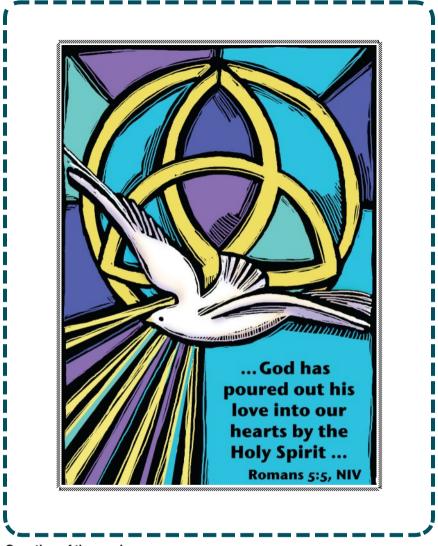
"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart." -- Jeremiah 3:15



One of the dangers of being a Montana tulip annual Spring snow ritual Belgrade, MT

"...the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." John 10:11





Question of the week:

When King Saul commanded that the priests be put to death because they helped David, who was the only one who would his hand to the sword?

Last week's question: When Jesus spoke to the Jewish hierarchy about their searching the scriptures because they thought that in them they had eternal life. He mentioned that if they really believed someone who wrote some of those scriptures, they would believe Him. Who was that person? *Answer: Moses (John 5:46).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 84Wednesday Night (5/18) – 67Morning Assembly – 115Butte Lord's Day – 13Evening Assembly – 51GF Lord's Day – 62,78 Wed. - 43



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Introduction to Overseers

The church has been designed by God. It was designed before the foundation of the world and existed in God's mind so that its substance could cast the shadow backward in earth's time to the Old Testament foreshadow. The old covenant tabernacle and its appurtenances were called "the copies of the things in the heavens" (Hebrews 9:23). The substance ("the things in the heavens") must be in existence in order for a copy to be made. As the tabernacle and the temple of Solomon were clearly designed by God, it is also therefore clear that the church of God was designed by God.

The building of the tabernacle was overseen by Moses. "Moses," said Hebrews' author, "was *warned* by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle" (Hebrews 8:5). This warning came in

the words of a strict command, as the writer of Hebrews quotes from the Old Testament narrative: "See,' He says, 'that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.' The tabernacle was built by Moses; the church is to be built by Christ, as He commented to Peter, "Upon this rock [the bedrock confession that Jesus is the Christ] I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). As Moses was commanded to build according to the pattern shown him, even more so would Christ build according to the pattern given Him by the Father. "Christ is faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are" (Hebrews 3:6).

Jesus, following His crucifixion and resurrection, ascended to the power position at the right hand of the Majesty on high. At the same time, He was positioned spiritually as the chief cornerstone in the true temple of God. The church, then, is built "upon the foundation of the apostles and [new covenant] prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20). The apostles and prophets built according to "all that Jesus commanded" (Matthew 28:20). The result is a complete set of instructions in the writings of the New Testament for how the church of Jesus Christ is to continue to be built. If Moses was *warned* with regard to the *copy* of the church, how much more are moderns *warned* to build according to the instructions given them in the completed word of God!

The church of the Lord is not a physical building, but it consists of individual spiritual building blocks or stones called Christians. "You also," was the apostle Peter's instruction, "as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5). These "living stones," however, are not to float aimlessly about on the surface of planet earth; they are to be organized into congregations that regularly assemble. These local assemblies are to be organized according to the instructions given in the New Testament writings. When Paul wrote to the congregation at Corinth, he reminded them that "as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful

MODERNS ARE WARNED TO BUILD ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN THEM IN THE COMPLETED WORD OF GOD.

how he builds upon it" (1 Corinthians 3:10). He further adds, "If any man destroys the temple of God [the local congregation in this context], God will destroy him" (1 Corinthians 3:16). The apostle Paul did not organize one congregation one way and have a different plan of organization for another local church. He mentioned to the church in Corinth that he was sending Timothy to straighten out a few things that had gone awry. "He will remind you," Paul assured them, "of my ways which are in Christ, just as *I teach everywhere in every church*" (1 Corinthians 4:17). Not only did Paul establish congregations with the same practices and doctrines throughout the first century world, but the other apostles did the same. When the apostle Paul met the apostles Peter and John in Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 15, he found that they were laying the same foundations, and they "gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship" (Galatians 2:9).

When Paul therefore gives Timothy instructions on overseers, these are the same instructions given to all the congregations by all the apostles. And they are the same instructions given to evangelists and congregations today!!

JAY WILSON