

**“...and I will make peace your
administrators and
righteousness your overseers”
-- Isaiah 60:17**



“Harbingers of Spring”
Sandhill cranes
Spain Bridge Road near the E. Gallatin River
close to the church building
Christ’s Church, Bozeman, MT

**“...beware
and be on your guard against
every form of greed.”**

Luke 12:15

"Follow through in 2022!!"

May 29, 2022

Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman
2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls
Holiday Inn Express — Butte

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Andrew Wallace
9:00 am - classes
10:00 am - Assembly
St'dship - Andrew Wallace
L.S. - Matthew Wilson
Preaching - Luke Wilson
L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -
L.S. - Bob Edgar

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes
8:15 pm - Assembly
L.S. - Cole Hunsicker
Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman
Young Adult Fellowship – Sat. June
4, 1:00 pm at building (Hyalite hike
and cookout)

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech
3:00 pm - classes
4:00 pm - Assembly
St'dship - Rick Vaught
L.S. - Brad Smith
Preaching - Jay Wilson

Butte
Fellowship dinner - June 19



BOZEMAN -
Wed. night, 7:00 pm: Phil
Sutton on "The Gold Stan-
dard" Matt. 7:12

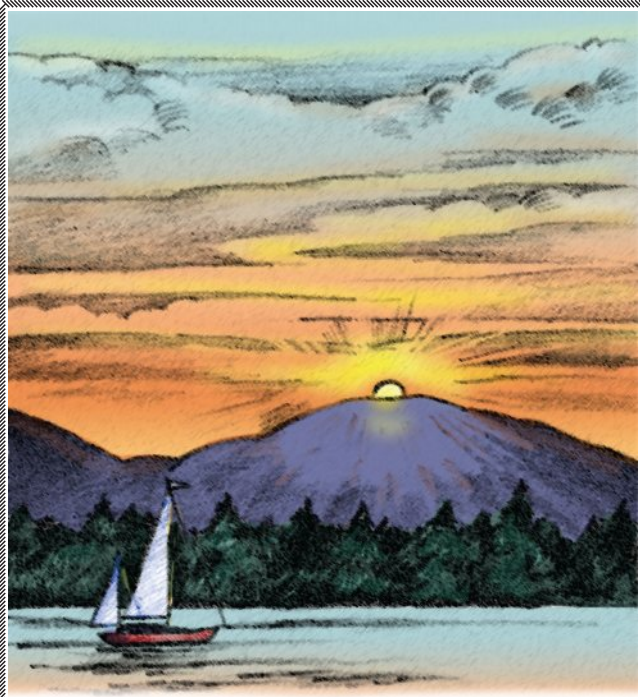
GREAT FALLS -
Wed night - 7:00 pm; Rick
Vaught

Montana Youth Camp
- June 12-17
- Beartooth Campground
S. of Columbus

Great Falls
Fellowship dinner, next Lord's Day
-- June 5

VBS – June 27-30

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Men's Peaks - July 21-23, 2022
Family Camp - Sept. 2-5, 2022



*“The LORD make his
face shine upon you ...
and give you peace.”*

Question of the week:

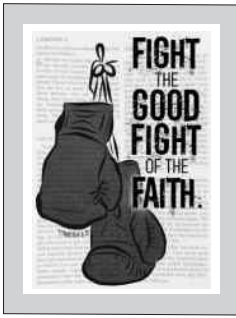
As Jesus talked to the apostles in connection with instituting the Lord's Supper, He laid down a condition under which someone could be His friend. What was that condition?

Last week's question: When King Saul commanded that the priests be put to death because they helped David, who was the only one who would put his hand to the sword? *Answer: Doeg the Edomite (1 Samuel 22:18).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 80
Morning Assembly – 103
Evening Assembly – 61

Wednesday Night (5/25) – 65
Butte Lord's Day – 11
GF Lord's Day – 78,92 Wed. - 125+



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Another “Trustworthy Statement”

When Paul met with the *elders* of the congregation of Ephesus in Miletus in what is now southwestern Turkey, this was part of the conversation: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock,” he exhorted, “among which the Holy Spirit has made you *overseers*, to *shepherd* the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28). As the apostle Paul introduces the topic of overseers in his first letter to Timothy, it is worth recalling that *elder* (*older man*), *bishop* (*overseer*), and *pastor* (*shepherd*) are different descriptions of the same office in the local congregation. These are the men who, in conjunction with evangelists (preachers), guide the local congregation. Because overseers are appointed by evangelists, the instructions to Timothy are relevant today in the

process of selecting elders.

- **Desire to do the work** – When it comes to guiding the flock of God through the maze of doctrinal issues, keeping them on good feed instead of weak or harmful spiritual nutrition, or protecting them from wolves and other predators, there is much work for the overseers of a congregation. Thus the apostle emphasizes, “It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do” (1 Timothy 3:1). Clearly, one of the prime qualifiers for the office is that the man must desire the *work* rather than aspire to the *position*. This is a major issue, since history shows that the men who were driven by “position ambition” ended up making a distinction between “elder” and “bishop,” and unscripturally elevating the office of “bishop” over the office of “elder” in their already twisted turn away from primitive Christianity. A man who truly desires the work will have demonstrated that by already doing most of the “behind-the-scenes” work that an overseer would do: having Bible studies in homes to educate and strengthen the saints, having a portion of his time devoted to reaching the lost, developing the skills of helping saints and their families through the multitude of issues that challenge the nuclear family, and having acquired the interpersonal and communication skills necessary to share publicly and privately his own knowledge of the scriptures. A man who is primarily interested in doing the “visible” aspects leading up to the position of eldership is a dangerous man; he does not desire the *work*!
- **Aspiring to the office** – “Aspiring” has to do with an upward reach, a willingness to put in hard work now in the hope of reward or goal later. A person who wants to be a doctor, for example, must receive the necessary education and training over a period of years before he is ready to begin to realize his aspirations. Question: what is more important, the office or function of a doctor for the physical side of man; or the office or function of an overseer for the spiritual side of saints? The man who aspires to the office of overseer must be willing to go through all the training and education necessary for him to be able to carry out the functions of that office.
- **“Overseer”** – A person who “oversees” is a person who makes sure everything is functioning as it should; he could also be described as a “manager.” A true bishop does his part to make certain that all the “moving parts” of a congregation work together and accomplish what needs to be done. He is responsible for the overall attitude and atmosphere of a congregation. He is responsible for the training of teachers and development of future leadership. He is responsible for making certain that the local congregation stays true to new covenant doctrine. He is, and very importantly, responsible for the church’s maintaining its commitment and vision to seeking and saving the lost.

The office of overseer is critical in the stability of a congregation over several generations. That office is worthy of a young man’s aspirations, and worthy of his commitment to all the training and skill-development necessary for him to be an effective overseer in the future. And he must also remember that it is commitment to *work*.

*The office is
worthy of a
young man’s
aspirations.*