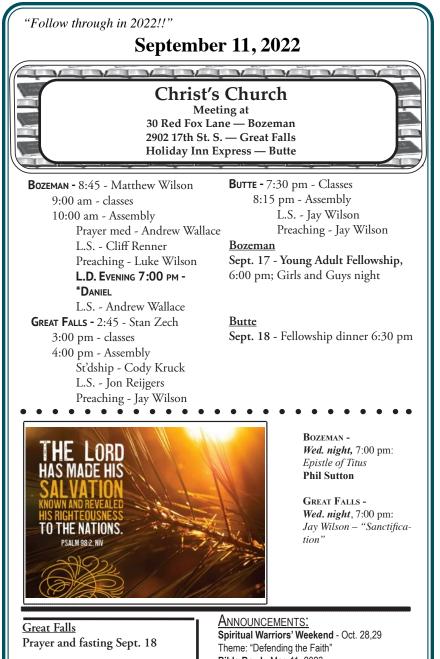
"The Lord is my rock and my fortress AND MY DELIVERER." -- 2 SAMUEL 22:2



Lucy Yates, of Spokane, WA and Lyris Tuck, of Bozeman, MT being good friends and exploring the preaching area MT Family Camp, 2022 Christ's Church property, Bozeman, MT

"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." 1 Timothy 1:5



<u>Bozeman</u> School begins - <u>Mon.</u> Sept. 12 ANNOUNCEMENTS: Spiritual Warriors' Weekend - Oct. 28,2 Theme: "Defending the Faith" Bible Bowl - Mar. 11, 2023 Ladies' Advance - April 13-15, 2023 Men's Peaks - July 20-22, 2023 Family Camp - Sept. 1-4, 2023

way that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power. 2 THESSALONIANS 1:11, ESV

Question of the week:

When God spoke through Isaiah as recorded in chapter one, He spoke of His people's having their dross smelted away. In that context He gave His coming holy city a name. What was it?

Last week's question: When the apostle Paul speaks of our being established, being sealed and having received the Spirit as a pledge [of our proper resurrection], he also said that God did something. What was that? Answer: He "anointed" us (2 Corinthians 1:21,22).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: (APP. 550 AT FAMILY CAMP!)

Bible School —	Wednesday Night (9/7) — 84
Morning Assembly – 161	Butte Lord's Day – 11
Evening Assembly –	GF Lord's Day – 15 at Gf, 78 at FC Wed 55



The Epistles to the Evangelists

"Show Yourself an Example"

Exemplary character is what puts power behind spoken words. No one particularly listens to what are properly called "light weights" because of their lack of consistency, of talking much but getting nothing done. This is true especially if the speaker is going to be exhorting others in the area of discipline; when people feel a little pressure to do better and be more, their natural tendency is to look for character flaws in the person from whom they feel the pressure. If Timothy, then, is going to be preaching on godliness, following Paul's instruction of "prescribe and teach these things," he is going to need to provide leadership himself in these areas in order to secure a hearing and a heeding.

• Youthfulness – As a younger man, Timothy would find it harder to find traction in exhorting older men. But Paul tells Timothy not to let that hold him back, exhorting him with these words: "Let no one look down on your youthfulness" (1 Timothy 4:12). In order to make that operative, the apostle adds, "show yourself [as] an example of those who believe." *Example* is hard to argue with!

Speech – The apostle then specifies to Timothy some of the areas to which Timothy should pay close attention in his personal conduct, and the first one which shows up is *speech*. What a person says, and how he says it, are critical components in building relationships and spreading the gospel. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth," Paul had enjoined upon the Ephesian brethren, "but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29).

Conduct – Another area the apostle puts to the fore is *conduct*. Conduct can be a little hard to define in words, but a saint who is in the right places at the right times, who knows how to lead when appropriate, to follow to make the teamwork effective, and positively to interact with brethren, would be exhibiting the kind of conduct the apostle calls for from Timothy.

 Love – A major area of Timothy's positive example would be *love*. Love of the lost and love of the brethren cannot be overlooked. This, of course, is Biblically defined love, with the honest concern for each person's eternity at the core.

 Faith – Timothy's *faith* would be exhibited in his faithful participation in the assemblies where he taught and preached. But "faith" is bigger than that. It would involve his willingness to take on new challenges, such as coming into Ephesus to work as an evangelist. This faith would require Especially in the work of an evangelist, character counts!

Timothy to "prescribe and preach" necessity of godliness to the brethren, to stand for sound doctrine, to take the gospel to the lost, to go into the synagogues and potentially suffer persecution. The brethren would need to see Timothy as a man of courage and conviction, who continually moved forward in the face of any opposition.

Purity – The necessity for Timothy to possess *purity* in thought, in deed, and in motive cannot be overstated. The wisdom, for example, that Timothy would need to exhibit in his conduct would be the heavenly wisdom, which is described by James as first of all "pure" (James 3:17). If Timothy's mind were to drift off the pure things of God, it would render him ineffective in the spread of the gospel, and possibly cost him his own salvation.

As in all Christian endeavor, but especially in the work of an evangelist, character counts! Because the preaching of the word is so important in the plan of God in saving souls, Satan jumps in and gets his false preachers into the mix. On the surface, they can seem genuine. But if a person were to look intently at the character qualities Paul calls on Timothy to exhibit, the fakes show very quickly that their speech is off the mark, their conduct underneath the surface is sinful, they have no true love for the saints, they don't have the faith of Christ as their guide, and they definitely do not have pure motives. It is critical, then, for Timothy and for all who would follow in his steps, to "show yourself an example of those who believe."

JAY WILSON