

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of slavery.’ ”

-- Judges 6:8



Some of the congregation gathered
for Wednesday evening assembly
Christ's Church in Great Falls, MT

**“...but if by the Spirit you are putting
to death the deeds of the body, you will
live.”**

Romans 8:13

“Victory in 2023!!”

February 26, 2023

Christ's Church

Meeting at

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

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Matthew Wilson

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

Prayer med - Davis Ashley

L.S. - Steven Doty

Preaching - Luke Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -

***THE FIRST ALPHABET!! - VIDEO**

L.S. - Charlie Brown

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Zac Zech

L.S. - Brad Smith

Preaching - Caleb Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - George Stone

Preaching - Tom McDunn

Bozeman

Sat. Mar 4 - Young Adult Fellowship, 6:00 pm; karaoke and snacks at building

Sat. Mar. 18 - Girls 12-17 study 9:00 am to noon at building. Questions: call Abby

Butte

Mar. 19 - Fellowship dinner 6:30 pm

In this the
Love of God
was made manifest
among us, that
God sent his
only Son
into the world,
so that we
might live
through him.



BOZEMAN -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Book of Proverbs

Phil Sutton

GREAT FALLS -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

PowerPoint - "Mentally Tough -- The secret of winning at sports applied to winning at life and for eternity"

Great Falls

Mar. 4 - Fellowship dinner following assembly

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl - Mar. 11, 2023

Ladies' Advance - April 13-15, 2023

Montana Youth Camp - June 11-16

Men's Peaks - July 20-22, 2023

Family Camp - Sept. 1-4, 2023

Jesus said,
“For judgment I came
into this world, that
those who do not see
may see, and those
who see may become
blind.”

JOHN 9:39, ESV



Question of the week:

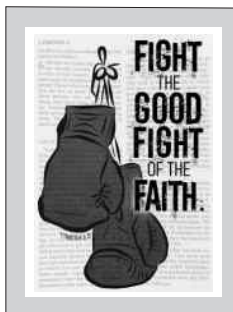
In Leviticus God spoke through Moses to the generation in the wilderness and prophesied that the people would turn away from Him and be scattered, but God said that He would not abandon them for the sake of the covenant with whom?

Last week's question: When the women left the empty tomb, according to Matthew's account, Jesus met them. What did the women do to Jesus' feet? *Answer: the women took hold of Jesus' feet! (Matthew 28:9).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 84
Morning Assembly – 103
Evening Assembly – 67

Wednesday Night (2/22) – 69
Butte Lord's Day – 14
GF Lord's Day – 68,83 Wed. - 59



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Reproving the Cretans

The congregations on the island of Crete (a comparatively large island southeast of Greece in the Mediterranean Sea) were struggling. It is exciting to realize some zealous saints had taken the gospel and that there were local churches on the island. But, like so many of the first century congregations, Judaizer influences had come in and were pulling the saints back under law. "Rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers" had come in and were destroying the work of Christ. Hence it was necessary for Paul to "leave" Titus in Crete to set things in order and to appoint elders in every congregation in an effort to stabilize these struggling churches.

- **A Cretan "prophet" speaks** – That the apostle Paul used the terminology that he "left" Titus in Crete indicates that he himself had

been to the island after his initial imprisonment in Rome. As an apostle involved in beginning these congregations, he would have imparted to them some spiritual gifts through the laying on of his hands, and some of those would have received the gift of being prophets. Because the new covenant prophets controlled their gift, it was possible for them to stray from the truth. Hence Paul told the other prophets in Corinth, for example, to "pass judgment" on the one prophesying (1 Corinthians 14:29). So it is possible that the individual Paul refers to here was a prophet that joined the rebellious men, or it is possible that Paul was being a little bit "snarky" in his comment. "One of themselves," he remarks, "a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.'" (Titus 1:12). [Even today, crowd manipulators can use the "how bad everything is" line to garner support for themselves.] Paul agrees. "This testimony is true," he says (Titus 1:13).

- **What Titus is to do** – So, the Cretan Christians are coming out of a society where basically everyone is a liar, is sinking to the level where they are following their animal instincts, is engaged in evil, and are described as "lazy gluttons." Whew! Since the church tends to reflect the society out of which it is derived (because new saints tend to bring with them their bad habits and world outlook before they can be educated in the ways of Christ), the saints in Crete had some of these bad characteristics also. Paul tells Titus, "For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in faith." Rough words! But truth-seekers can take "severe reproving" because they know it's necessary, and they won't fall into the "kill the messenger" mode.
- **Sound in faith** – The goal is to get people to heaven. That means continually pointing God's sheep in the right direction, and exposing false teachers and false doctrine. Paul phrases it thusly, "that they may be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth" (Titus 1:13,14). The "weird, wild, and wonderful" elements of mythology have a lot of appeal (such as thinking that angels came down and had offspring through women before the Flood). Paul says not even to pay any attention to such stuff. Nor were they to listen to the bold commandments supposedly based on God's laws issued by empty talkers. For the brethren to be "sound in *faith*" was the goal, as contrasted to any law system.

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the brethren to
be "sound in
faith."

The details of modern day challenges are different, but essentially the games are the same. Modern society is on a downhill run, and converts to Christ need to leave the weaknesses of modern thought and modern elements that are contrary to the ways of Christ behind. Occasionally, saints may need to be reprovved severely. Saints need to be educated on the difference between *the faith of Christ* and *the Law of Moses*. They need to understand how modern "empty talkers and deceivers" still pull people in on issues that sound somewhat Biblical but are far from new covenant teaching and application. The goal is for modern brethren to be "sound in faith."

JAY WILSON