# "THESE WATERS ... FLOW INTO THE [DEAD] SEA, AND THE WATERS OF THE SEA BECOME FRESH." -- EZEKIEL 47:8



A tremendous graphic from Mr. Luke Wilson's PowerPoint presentation on Colossians 4 Lord's Day assembly Christ's Church in Bozeman

And some of the scribes answered and said, "Teacher, You have spoken well."

Luke 20:39

# March 5, 2023

# Christ's Church

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

**Bozeman -** 8:45 - Corban Icenogle

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Jason Shanahan

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 - Jared DuPaul

L.S. - Steve Durnan

Preaching - Caleb Wilson

**Butte** - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

#### 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

**Prayer/Potluck weekend-** Mar. 25,26 theme for potluck:Mexican

#### Rutte

Mar. 19 - Fellowship dinner 6:30 pm



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. 5 - Fellowship dinner following assembly

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

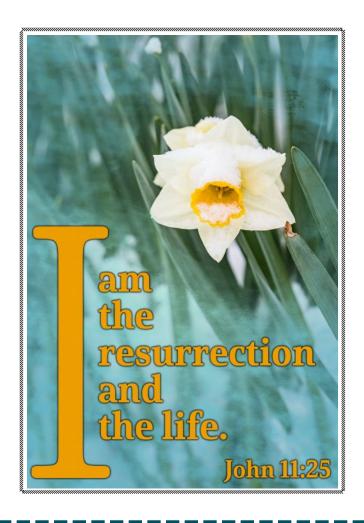
Bible Bowl - Mar. 11, 2023

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



# Question of the week:

According to the gospel of Mark, where was Jesus standing when He saw the widow put in two copper coins?

Last week's question: 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? *Answer: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Leviticus 26:42).* 

### ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 68	Wednesday Night (3/1) – 84
Morning Assembly – 97	Butte Lord's Day – 10
Evening Assembly — 53	GF Lord's Day — 61,85 <i>Wed 65</i>



The Epistles to the Evangelists

## **Purity**

"Everyone," said the apostle John, who has this hope fixed on seeing God as He is, "purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:3). The issue of *purity* is a major one, as evidenced by Jesus' statement in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). To be "pure in heart," a person must not have any hidden motives or deceitful actions or words; his concern must be honestly to glorify God and truly to bless the brethren and members of the human race. Such purity and honesty is rare, as illustrated by Jesus' comment concerning the future apostle Nathanael at his first encounter with the Christ: "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" (John 1:47). That comment would not have been made about the high priest and the ranking Pharisees, who conspired to

put Jesus to death!

- **Purity pervades** There is no such thing as "partial purity" in the spiritual realm. Things are either pure or they have been corrupted. "To the pure," affirms the apostle Paul, "all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure..." (Titus 1:15). There are some things in nature which give us a picture of purity, such as freshly fallen snow or cold water from a clear and unpolluted spring. "Though your sins are as scarlet," the Lord had prophesied, "they will be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). The saint, having thus been redeemed from lusts of the flesh and lusts of the mind, can have and can maintain that purity of thought, motive, word, and action; in fact, he is obviously encouraged to do so. When the individual is pure, everything he touches or uses is pure and holy. In every situation, the pure and holy disciple of Christ will be working to edify, to turn things positive, to turn people to Christ.
- Defilement abounds If the individual is not pure, like a drop of dye in a bucket of water, the defilement spreads through his entire thought system, and corrupts his perspective and his motives. "To those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled" (Titus 1:15). Impurity twists everything! "The wisdom from above," noted James, "is first pure..." (James 3:17). But those who have bitter jealousy or selfish ambition in their hearts end up with an "earthly, natural, demonic" wisdom which, while often clever, is tremendously destructive. "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every

Pure motive; straight teaching!

evil thing" (James 3:15,16). The pure in heart produce order and spiritual productivity; the twisted mind and evil conscience of the impure produce chaos.

**Deceptive appearance** – These instructions are written to Titus about the saints on the island of Crete. The problems, then, are not the problems of those who are still in the world; the problems are those that stubborn saints were bringing with them into the church. The person with the hidden motive, some personal agenda rather than for Christ, is counter-productive to the spread of the gospel. "They profess to know God," is Paul's inspired analysis, "but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed" (Titus 1:16). It is interesting what the Holy Spirit sees beneath the smiling and suave exterior of those who are impure. Detestable! That is a powerful word, creating a powerful picture of how truly despicable this one who professes to be of the faith of Christ is. And worthless! Worthless for any good deed, because everything he touches is defiled. These are spiritual factors that Titus would seriously have to take into account in setting things in order in the congregations on Crete.

Titus, doing the work of an evangelist on the island, would have to be aware of the hidden motives of the impure and, shrewd as a serpent but innocent as a dove, continue to move forward and preach and teach the gospel. Rather than getting pulled downward by the hidden corruption of the impure, Titus is exhorted, "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). Pure motive; straight teaching!

JAY WILSON