

**“[GOD] OVERTHREW THOSE CITIES [SODOM AND GOMORRAH],
AND ALL THE VALLEY, AND ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITIES,
AND WHAT GREW ON THE GROUND. ”**

-- GENESIS 19:25



Godwin Wonder, native preacher of Ghana
graduate of the Christian school in Kumasi, Ghana
taught by Jeff Hostetter
resident of Cape Coast, Ghana

**“When they [Peter and the angel] had
passed the first and second guard, they
came to the iron gate that leads into the
city, which opened for them by itself; and
they went out and went along one street,
and immediately the angel departed from
him.”**

Acts 12:10

“Victory in 2023!!”

July 9, 2023

Christ’s Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

Holiday Inn Express — Butte

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Josiah Sutton series

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St’dship - Tyson Jacobs

L.S. - Andrew Wallace

Preaching - Luke Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -

***VIDEO: EARTH: FLAT OR ROUND**

L.S. - Gary DiPaolo

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St’dship - Cody Kruck

L.S. - Caleb Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - George Stone

Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman

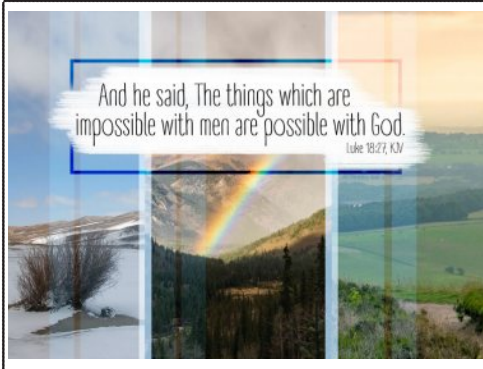
Congratulations to **Luke Jacobs** and

Leann Boyer, who were united in

marriage on Sat. July 1!

Butte

July 16 - Fellowship dinner 6:30 pm



BOZEMAN -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Book of Hebrews

Luke Wilson

GREAT FALLS -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:

Video: Patterns of Evidence

- Time of the Exodus

Jay Wilson

Great Falls

July 16 - Prayer and fasting for evangelism

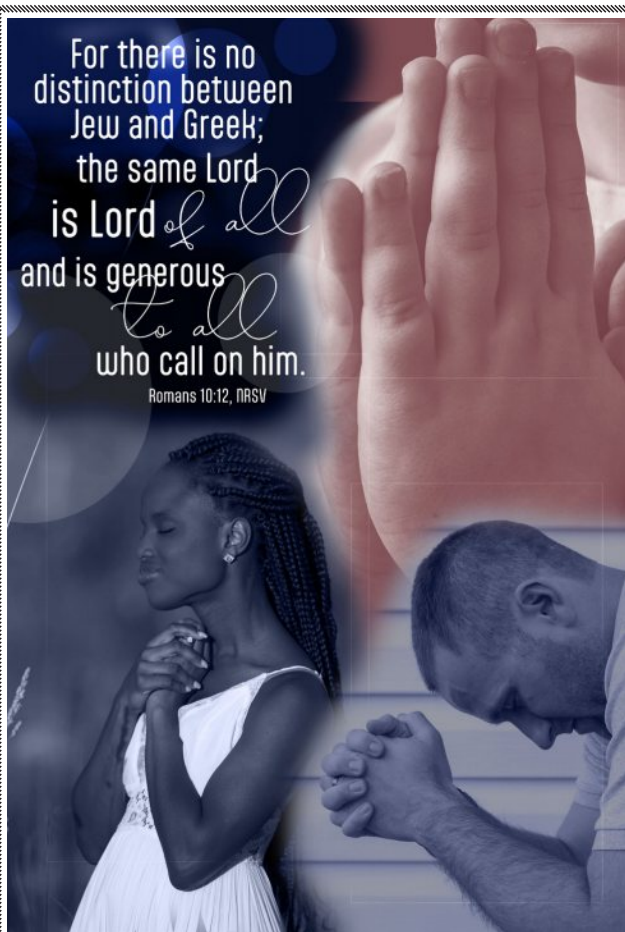
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Men’s Peaks - July 20-22, 2023 Theme: “The Enemy, the Battle, the Victory” -- 2 Thessalonians chapters 2&3

Family Camp - Sept. 1-4, 2023

For there is no
distinction between
Jew and Greek;
the same Lord
is Lord of all
and is generous
to all
who call on him.

Romans 10:12, NRSV



Question of the week:

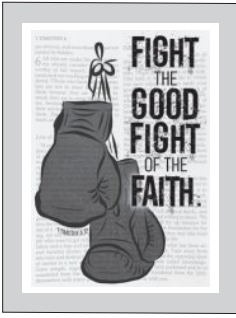
When the apostle Paul appeared before Portius Festus, what was King Agrippa's response when Paul appealed to his knowledge of events surrounding the death of Christ?

Last week's question: What did Jehu do to Jezebel immediately after she was thrown down from the wall tower at the gate of Jezreel? Answer: "He trampled her under foot" [indicating he ran his chariot over her] (2 Kings 10:33).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 66
Morning Assembly – 108
Evening Assembly – 55

Wednesday Night (7/5) – 79
Butte Lord's Day – 15
GF Lord's Day – 46,59 Wed. - 38



Reject a Factious Man

Those who practice the “deeds of the flesh,” pointed out the apostle Paul, “shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Sounds serious!! In the midst of this list recorded for the Galatian brethren are “enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying...” (Galatians 5:20,21). These evils are contrived to cause division among the brethren and thus hinder the important work of seeking and saving the lost. Ultimately these evils come from the Adversary (Satan), the devil (Slanderer), Apollyon (Destroyer). He generated rebellion in heaven and has carried that to earth. To the extent that he can get into the mind of the individual, that individual exhibits the character of the outcast angel of darkness, and engages in the same destructive work. A Christian who loses his way can become

victim of Satan’s work and fall into the same destructive actions as the lost. Hence the warnings!

- **Shun foolish controversies** – When a saint is face to face with scripture, he has two choices: he can either humbly yield to and joyfully follow its instruction, or he can try to justify his unscriptural behavior. Often the attempt to justify behavior or desires that run counter to the word of God is covered by the generation of “off the topic” disputes and distractions. Paul tells Titus, “But shun foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law” (Titus 3:9). It is a conversational art to be able to turn the discussion away from those “foolish controversies,” but it has to be done. The Jewish emphasis on “genealogies” or perhaps a Gentile’s overconcern about his ancestry needs to be shunted aside; what is important is whether an individual is “born from above” and maintains the proper scriptural priorities. Some people want to cause “strife,” but again those discussions to be turned aside, requiring some real discipline of the mind in men like Titus. Some want to argue about the Law, as Paul also warned Timothy; even though “they make confident assertions,” “they do not understand what they are saying” (1 Timothy 1:7). “Shun” these conversations, is the apostle’s sage advice, “for they are unprofitable and worthless.”
- **A factious man** – A person who goes about causing strife and division has an agenda, sometimes hidden and sometimes a little more open. Paul’s instruction to Titus the evangelist is to “reject factious man after a first and second warning” (Titus 3:10). Often the congregation as a whole does not recognize the divisive nature of the wayward saint. This is often due to his having carefully cultivated his targets, or some of the brethren’s lack of spiritual maturity to recognize the agenda-driven activities of such a person. The evangelists have to be able to recognize factious men (and women), and give them “a first and second warning.” If the warning is not heeded, then the destructive individual needs to be “rejected,” and removed from the congregation.
- **Understanding the roots** – Whatever controversy is being generated, or whatever unprofitable discussion is being forwarded, it is a cover for more deeply rooted issues. Paul and the Holy Spirit explain: “knowing that such a one is perverted and sinning, being self-condemned” (Titus 3:11). Because of the individual’s refusal to face himself as revealed in the scripture, his thinking gets perverted or twisted, and he continues to justify the sin he should leave behind.

Titus was working in numerous congregations on the island of Crete. Considering the problems that arose in the congregations which are directly discussed in the New Testament epistles, it is reasonable to conclude that the same types of issues would arise in the churches of Crete. Factions and divisions, unfortunately, are fairly common. Some of the seed falls on rocky soil, and some in the midst of the weeds. Such soils, not being of a “good and honest heart,” are breeding grounds for factious and divisive thoughts and behaviors. Titus and all future readers are duly warned of the seriousness of such behavior, and are given the appropriate and divinely-approved actions to take in response.

JAY WILSON

*Bad soil is
the breeding
ground for
factions.*