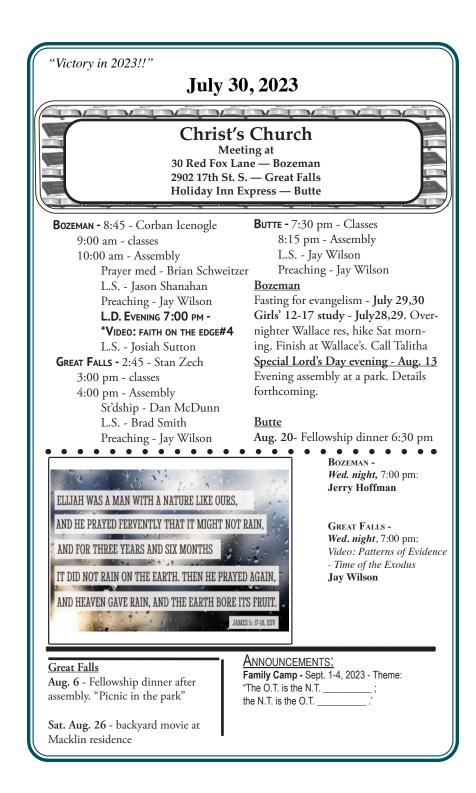
"All the men of valor, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths, one thousand, all strong and fit for war, and these the king of Babylon brought into exile to Babylon. -- 2 Kings 24:16



Carolyn Greathouse, longtime Christian from the Lisbon, OH area with granddaughters Brittani and Alissa evening assembly Greenford Church of Christ Greenford, OH

"The children of your chosen sister greet you. "

2 John 1:13





Question of the week:

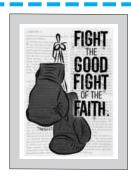
In the days of Asa king of Judah, a prophet spoke something of seeking the Lord. What did he say?

Last week's question: In the book of Romans, Paul said that having been justified by faith, we as saints have something. What is it? Answer: Peace with God (Romans 5:1).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 87 Morning Assembly – 131 Evening Assembly – 72

Wednesday Night (7/26) – 76 Butte Lord's Day – 17 GF Lord's Day – 49,63 *Wed.* - 51



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Remembrances

When Paul, along with Silas, made what is called "the second missionary journey," he traveled across what is now the nation of Turkey, coming to the town then named Lystra. Lystra was one of the locations where Paul and Barnabas had preached the word of God on the first journey. This was the location where Paul healed a man "lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked" (Acts 14:8). The crowd's response to this apparently open-air healing was to call the itinerant preachers "gods," and for the priest of Zeus to want to offer sacrifice with the crowds. It took significant effort to restrain the crowds from making this offering, so impressed were they by the healing that had taken place. But crowds are fickle; shortly the hostile Jews persuaded the mob to stone Paul, drag him

out of the city, and leave him for dead. Timothy was either a witness of all this, or at least knew of these events. Luke, in his account in the book of Acts, recorded the selection of Timothy in these words: "Paul wanted this man to go with him" (Acts 16:3), as Timothy "was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium" (Acts 16:2). Paul and Timothy had a long and deeply established relationship in Christ.

Thanking God – The apostle Paul, straight-forward and intensely honest, mentions his prayers on Timothy's behalf. "I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did," states he, "as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that you may be filled with joy" (2 Timothy 1:3,4). What the apostle is driving at, in regard to both himself and Timothy, is that the Jewish system was the correct system until the coming of the new covenant.

Both Timothy and Paul were of Israelite ancestry, and Paul emphasizes that he served God in that sense with a clear conscience in accordance with the system handed down from the forefathers. Having laid the groundwork for establishing a common bond, the apostle then goes on to mention how he prays for Timothy on a continual basis. This is not surprising, considering (among other things) how much Paul depended upon Timothy as a faithful and trusted co-worker in the great work to which Paul was totally devoted.

The aged apostle truly longs to see Timothy while he is languishing in the prison, later re-emphasizing, "Make every effort to come to me soon" (2 Timothy 4:9). Somehow the poignant memory of Timothy's "tears," whenever that happened — whether at Timothy's immersion or at some other point along the way — floods to Paul's mind, as he desires to see Timothy and thus "be filled with joy."

Sincere faith – "For I am mindful," adds the apostle, "of the sincere faith within you" (2 Timothy 1:5). The implication is that there are some whose faith is "insincere"; that is, that they are pretending. Not so with Timothy. Paul then gives credit to Timothy's upbringing in following the way of God, noting that the same sincere faith "which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice," closing the comment with "and I am sure it is in you as well."

For it to be recorded that Paul knew Timothy's grandmother and mother well enough to know how sincere their faith was, and what kind of training they had given Timothy in matters of the Lord, shows how well Paul knew Timothy and his immediate family. This is evidence of the deep bond of fellowship, friendship, and the love of Christ between the two, Paul's having trusted Timothy so many times with important missions for the kingdom of Christ. "For I have no one else of kindred spirit," the apostle had stated of Timothy to the Philippian brethren, "who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare" (Philippians 2:20).

It is easy to see, then, why Paul earnestly desired to see Timothy one more time before he passed from this life into the Paradise which he had seen by revelation!

JAY WILSON

"For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you."