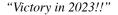


Pennsylvania fall countryside Near Bedford, PA

Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost."

Revelation 21:6



December 3, 2023

Christ's Church

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

BOZEMAN - 8:45 -9:00 am - classes 10:00 am - Assembly Prayer med - Nick Jacobs L.S. - Jerry Hoffman Preaching - Luke Wilson L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -* JERRY HOFFMAN L.S. - Scott Schweitzer GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech 3:00 pm - classes 4:00 pm - Assembly St'dship - Caleb Wilson

> L.S. - Steve Durnan Preaching - Jay Wilson

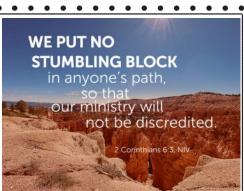
BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes 8:15 pm - Assembly L.S. - Jay Wilson Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman

Congratulations to *Soren Landsgaard*, who was immersed into Christ on Lord's Day evening Nov. 19 by Andrew Wallace!

Great Falls

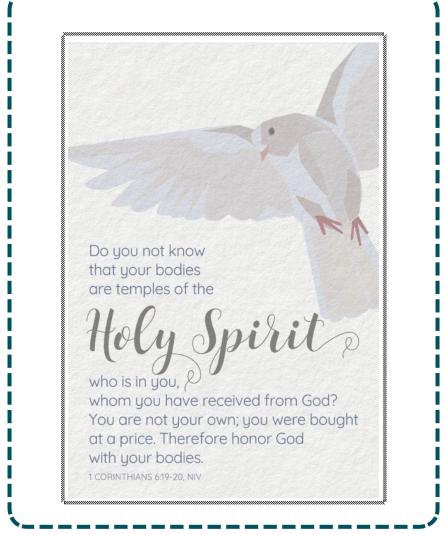
Dec. 3 - Fellowship dinner following assembly. Theme: breakfast **"Birth of Christ" program -** Wed. Dec. 13, 7:00 pm



BOZEMAN -Wed. night, 7:00 pm: Book of Hebrews Luke Wilson

GREAT FALLS -*Wed. night*, 7:00 pm: *Jay Wilson*

<u>Butte</u> Fellowship dinner - Dec. 17, 6:30 pm ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bible Bowl - Mar. 16, 2024 Ladies' Advance - April 18-20,2024, Beartooth Christian Camp, Fishtail, MT Men's Peaks - July 25-27, 2024 Family Camp - Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024



Question of the week:

In the vision which Daniel received of the Son of Man coming to receive His kingdom, that kingdom would be for whom to serve Him?

Last week's question: Since "Christ has suffered in the flesh," what is it that Peter enjoins upon Christians? Answer: For the Christian to arm himself with the same purpose (1 Peter 4:1).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 70 Morning Assembly – 99 Evening Assembly – 64

Wednesday Night (11/29) – 70 Butte Lord's Day – 13 GF Lord's Day – 68,83 *Wed.* - 48

The Epistles to the Evangelists

FIGHT GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH.

From the Great Seal

Since very early in the formation of the republic of the United States of America, there has been "the great seal." On the obverse side is the bald eagle with the flag, and on the reverse side is the pyramid claimed to have "the eye of Providence" at the top. This sealhas been entrusted to the Secretary of State, and representations of it are found on nearly every federal building in the U.S., and currently on the one-dollar bill. This very prevalent seal is a great picture for the point the apostle Paulis making: "The firm foundation stands," he notes, "having this seal." The physical picture is of the true temple's foundation having the impress of the seal prominently displayed on its wall. "The Lord knows those who are His," would

be, for example, the obverse side, and the reverse side would read, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness." While the saint can be confident in the Lord's knowing him, the warning on the other side of the seal cannot be ignored.

The firm foundation stands – God has gone to tremendous lengths to establish the authenticity and authority of the scriptures. The coming of Christ into the world, as "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us," was clearly predicted in the Old Testament scriptures, including predicting the time of His sojourning. Christ Himself noted, following His bodily resurrection from the dead, saying, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day" (Luke 24:46). That Jesus would say, "Thus it is written," establishes that the foundation is there and it is solid. He even went on to say, "and that repentance for ("and" – NKJV) forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). Not only was the story of Jesus built on the firm foundation, but the preaching of the gospel and the spread of the church

or kingdom is also built on that same foundation. That foundation is "firm" — solid, unshakeable, and thus the source of "sound" doctrine.

The Lord knows His own – Jesus often emphasized that He is the Shepherd of the sheep, and correspondingly He emphasized that He, like a good shepherd, knows each of the sheep. "My sheephear My voice," He emphasized, "and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27). "Those

who are His," as it states on the seal, are those who hear and obey the words of the new covenant; to anyone making a false claim of Jesus' knowing them He will say, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23).

Abstain from wickedness – God has activated His plan of redemption for the sake of His name. "I am writing to you, little children," John informed the brethren, "because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake" (1 John 2:12). The apostle Paul also noted that he received his apostleship "to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake" (Romans 1:5). One of the main purposes of the Almighty exhibited in His word from the beginning to the end is that He intends to "sanctify" or "vindicate the holiness" of His great name (Ezekiel 36:23). Hence, as One who is very concerned about His name, it is only fitting that He enjoin those who "name the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness."

The firm foundation of the Lord does indeed stand! The saint's responsibility is to be diligent in making "certain about His calling and choosing you" (2 Peter 1:10). In that way the disciple of Christ can be certain that the Lord knows him as one of His own. The saint's parallel obligation is to abstain from wickedness in any form. The Lord's side is guaranteed; the variable is whether the saint will step up to his responsibility and obligation. If he does, he maintains the seal of his redemption, and is guaranteed the positive resurrection from the dead at Jesus' return.

The Lord's side is guaranteed; the variable is the saint's side!

JAY WILSON