

**“FOR THE WAYS OF THE LORD ARE RIGHT,
AND THE RIGHTEOUS WILL WALK IN THEM”**

-- HOSEA 14:9



View of the Madison Range
from the base of the Tobacco Root Mountains
near Pony, MT

**“For we know that if the earthly tent which
is our house is torn down, we have a
building from God, a house not made with
hands, eternal in the heavens.”**

2 Corinthians 5:1

“Victory in 2023!!”

December 10, 2023

Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

Holiday Inn Express — Butte

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Preston Fisher
9:00 am - classes
10:00 am - Assembly
St'dship - Matthew Wilson
L.S. - Steven Doty
Preaching - Luke Wilson
L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -
* **DAVIS ASHLEY**
L.S. - Justin Shanahan

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech
3:00 pm - classes
4:00 pm - Assembly
St'dship - Levi DuPaul
L.S. - Steve McDunn
Preaching - Jay Wilson

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

Bozeman
Dec. 30,31 - Prayer and fasting
Dec. 31 - **Fellowship dinner 5:30 pm** before assembly. New Year's Eve celebration following assembly

Great Falls
Church 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

Butte
Fellowship dinner - Dec. 17, 6:30 pm

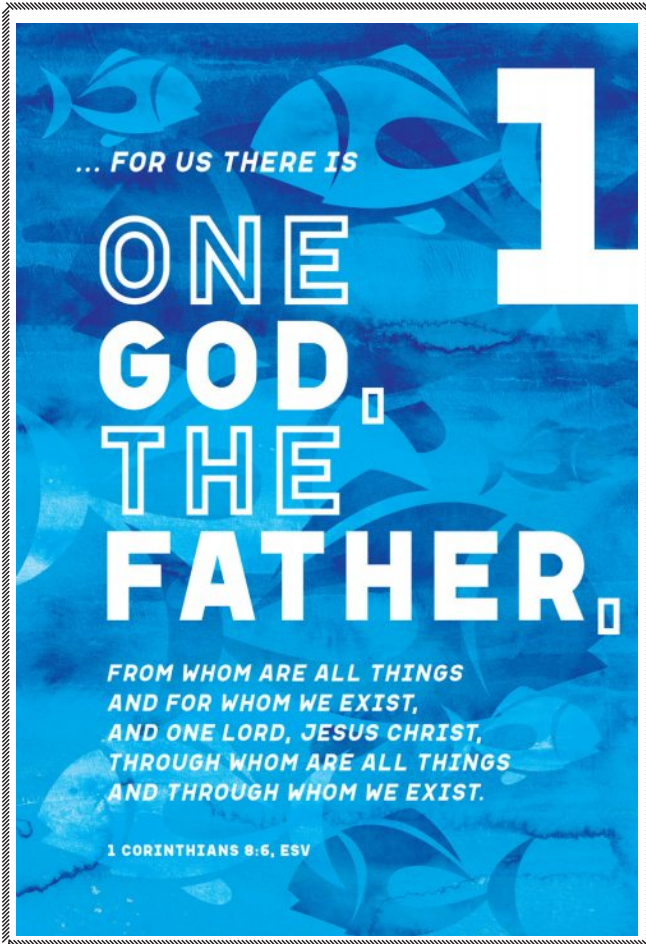
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 book of Jude, the writer comments that Christians should have mercy on some. Whom did he specify?

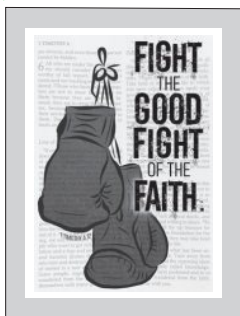
Last week's question: In the vision which Daniel received of the Son of Man coming to receive His kingdom, that kingdom would be for whom to serve Him? *Answer: "all the peoples, nations, and men of every language" (Daniel 7:14).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 73
Morning Assembly – 98
Evening Assembly – 67

Wednesday Night (12/6) – 53
Butte Lord's Day – 14
GF Lord's Day – 79,92 Wed. - 64

In a Large House



For most of mankind, for most of history, housing has been a problem. Whether it has been the challenge of putting up a log cabin in a forest clearing, or affording housing in densely packed cities, most of mankind has been shoved into a fairly small or primitive space, without many of the “niceties” or comforts of a spacious home. In most societies, however, there are a percentage of those who have financial means for bigger and better living conditions. Those would be the ones who live “in a large house.”

● **Gold and silver vessels** – In the palace of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg, Russia, are displays of the tableware of the Czar and his family. Most of the vessels are of gold, but some are silver, the silver being used for functions that were a little dirtier or where

there was more wear and tear, and other less costly materials for all dirty or disgusting use. That would not be the case for a small house wherein dwell the common man and his family. But Paul uses this picture to make his point: “Now in a large house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor” (2 Timothy 2:20).

- **Some to honor ...** – The gold and silver vessels would be, in the illustration the apostle is using, vessels “of honor.” The vessels of wood and earthenware would be the vessels of “dishonor.” Honorable vessels would be for visible use and display; the dishonorable vessels would be the ones for throwing slop into the street. “Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor — sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:21). A silver or wooden vessel has no choice as to its composition; the human vessel can choose its composition. By God’s grace, through immersion into Christ and strengthening through the Spirit, the saint can go through the transforming “renewing the mind” process and be a true “vessel of honor.” If he fails to engage, he will continue to be a vessel of dishonor, destined for the eternal garbage heap.
- **Result of cleansing** – If the child of faith follows the cleansing procedures described in the New Testament, he will be “sanctified.” *Sanctified*, or *holy*, means to be set aside for God’s purposes, and that *holiness* is one of the major themes of the word of God. “Having these promises, beloved,” said Paul to the Corinthians, “let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1). The result of such cleansing is that the disciple of Christ can truly be “useful to the Master.” No one who has an impure conscience, and no one who has selfish ambition or bitterness in his heart, can be of spiritual service to God (Hebrews 9:14; James 3:14,15). The Father, then, wants His sons of faith to “engage in good deeds” (Titus 3:14). God, in fact, created the saints in Christ Jesus “for good works, which [He] prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). By bearing fruit as productive branches on the Vine, Christians are thus “useful to the Master.”

Saints cleanse themselves to be vessels of honor.

God has done tremendous work in raising Jesus from the dead and seating Him at the right hand of power in order to have “new creations,” who will be “vessels of honor.” The words of Hebrews’ author come to mind: “For the ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, is it worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned” (Hebrews 6:7,8). “Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22). In this way the saint will be a useful vessel in the large house of the Lord, and of much more value than something of mere silver or gold.