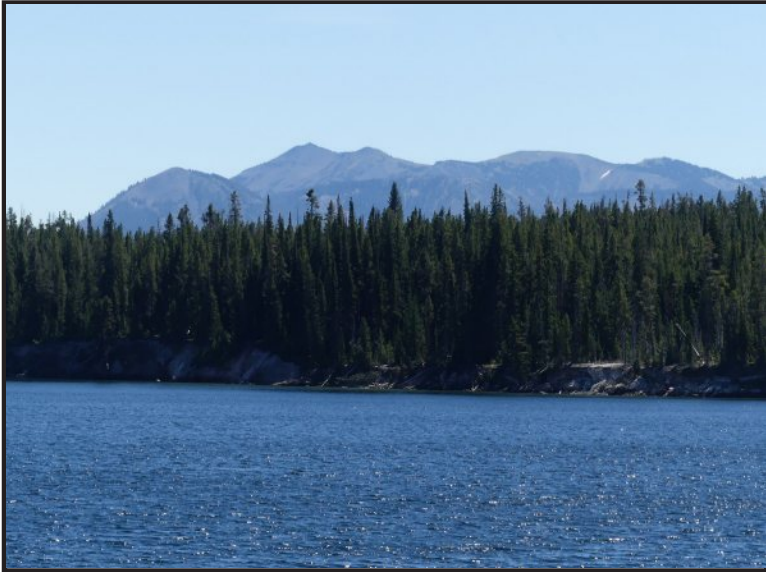


**“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,  
And lead me in the everlasting way.”**

**-- Psalm 139:23-24**



The Yellowstone River  
overseen by Mt. Washburn  
Yellowstone National Park

**“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming  
and now is, when the dead will hear the voice  
of the Son of God, and those who hear will  
live.”**

***John 5:25***

“Victory in 2023!!”

## December 17, 2023

### Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

Holiday Inn Express — Butte

**BOZEMAN - 8:45** - Matthew Wilson

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

Prayer Med - Gary DiPaolo

L.S. - Jim Mitchell

Preaching - Luke Wilson

**L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -**

**\* ANDREW WALLACE**

L.S. - Brian Schweitzer

**GREAT FALLS - 2:45** - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Bobo Womagno

L.S. - Jon Reijgers

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**BUTTE - 7:30 pm** - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman

Dec. 23 - Josiah/Taylor Sutton reception at church building at 6:30 pm

Dec. 30,31 - Prayer and fasting

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

Butte

Fellowship dinner - 6:30 pm



**BOZEMAN -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**

*Book of Hebrews*

**Luke Wilson**

**GREAT FALLS -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**

*Jay Wilson*

Great Falls

**Congratulations** to *Karen Czech*, who was immersed into Christ on Tues. Dec. 12th!!

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



*Therefore,*

THE PROMISE COMES BY FAITH,  
SO THAT IT MAY BE BY GRACE  
AND MAY BE GUARANTEED  
TO ALL ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING.

ROMANS 4:16, NIV

**Question of the week:**

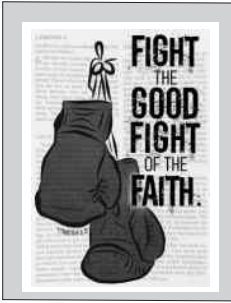
Why did God show Amos a vision of a basket of summer fruit?

Last week's question: In the book of Jude, the writer comments that Christians should have mercy on some. Whom did he specify? Answer: "who are doubting" (Jude 1:22).

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:**

Bible School – 65  
Morning Assembly – 96  
Evening Assembly – 55

Wednesday Night (12/13) – 48  
Butte Lord's Day – 11  
GF Lord's Day – 72,79 Wed. - 110+



## The Epistles to the Evangelists

### *The Lord's Bond-servant*

One of the goals of God is to have sons of the Most High who are useful to Him. While saints can and need to be useful in the directly physical realm, such as making sure the trash around the church building is picked up, the real need is for them to be useful in the spiritual realm. And to be of use, the individual making a claim to godliness must be in the process of "cleansing himself" of wickedness, stain, or filthiness, so that he will be one of God's vessels "of honor." Hence Timothy was exhorted to "flee from youthful lusts." But it was also enjoined upon Timothy to "pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace." It is in the increased possession of those attributes that brethren can be of greater use to the Lord. By joining in with those others "who call upon the Lord from a pure heart," the Christian

soldier can march in victory with the army of God, winning souls for the sake of Christ's name.

- **Obstacles to overcome** – "In the exercise of His will," stated James, "He brought us forth by the *word* of truth" (James 1:18). Since it is obedience to the preached word that saves people, then Satan will wage a war with words and against words. When a potential convert to Christ starts being convicted of sin, but is not necessarily ready to humble himself before the Lord of the universe, then "the prince of the power of the air" can work within the hesitating prospect, and assist him in coming up with excuses or mis-directions to the conversation. Thus Paul reminds Timothy, "But refuse foolish or ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels" (2 Timothy 2:23). There may be a time and a place to discuss whether "aliens seeded life on earth," but when the prospect is faced with the presentation that immersion is "for the forgiveness of sins" is not the time and the place; that would under those conditions be a foolish and ignorant speculation. The Lord's bond-servant must be disciplined and skilled at keeping the all-important conversation on track out of love for the other individual's soul and honest concern for his eternity. Nothing like a good "quarrel" to create confusion and diversion, and thus redirect the whole purpose and tenor of the salvation issue.

- **Qualities of the bond-servant** – A "bond-servant," as the NASB renders it, is a servant or slave by choice rather than by conscription. Thus the bond-servant of the Lord is voluntarily, out of love, trying to help the lost person find his way out of the deep hole of sin and darkness. That "the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome" is evident. Rather then, that he should be "kind to all." Unruffled, consistent kindness is a characteristic of God, and that kindness leads people to repentance. The imitator of Christ must often exhibit that characteristic in working with the lost or struggling. The carrier of the gospel of Christ must also be "able to teach." The Christian must not only know the information necessary to answer the questions, but also to know the proper beginning point and how to communicate the logic effectively. The saint, working in a disciple-making position, must be "patient when wronged." It is not about "taking things personally"; it is about keeping the focus on the goal of helping the other person believe and obey the way of salvation. "With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition" is a corresponding key component. Under these conditions, emotions are the enemy of truth. Hence the presenter of the gospel has to be gentle and able, if possible, to calm those disturbed waters, so that good headway can be maintained.

Those who are outside of Christ need to be converted, and this is going to be done by words of truth, often amid much opposition. Likewise, it is clear from the New Testament epistles that brethren in Christ can be turned aside from the paths of righteousness and need correction as well. The disciple of Christ in the position of trying to help the lost and confused must truly be a "vessel of honor," so that the personal attacks are irrelevant. He then will be in a position of strength — a useful bond-servant!

**Unruffled, consistent kindness leads people to repentance**