

“Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king, that they would be the LORD’S people.”

-- 2 Chronicles 23:16



Lower Falls of the Yellowstone
Yellowstone National Park

**“If anyone does not love the Lord,
he is to be accursed.
Maranatha.”**

1 Corinthians 16:22

“Victory in 2023!!”

December 24, 2023

Christ's Church

Meeting at

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

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Elliot Ashley

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Mike Kover

L.S. - Su Nguyen

Preaching - Luke Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -

*** "SING ALONG" WITH PHIL**

L.S. - Davis Ashley

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Zac Zech

L.S. - Brad Smith

Preaching - Jay Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

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

Congratulations to **Josiah and Taylor Sutton** on their marriage Dec. 16 in the Roanoke, VA, area!!

Butte

Jan. 21 - 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

Jan. 7 - Fellowship dinner following assembly

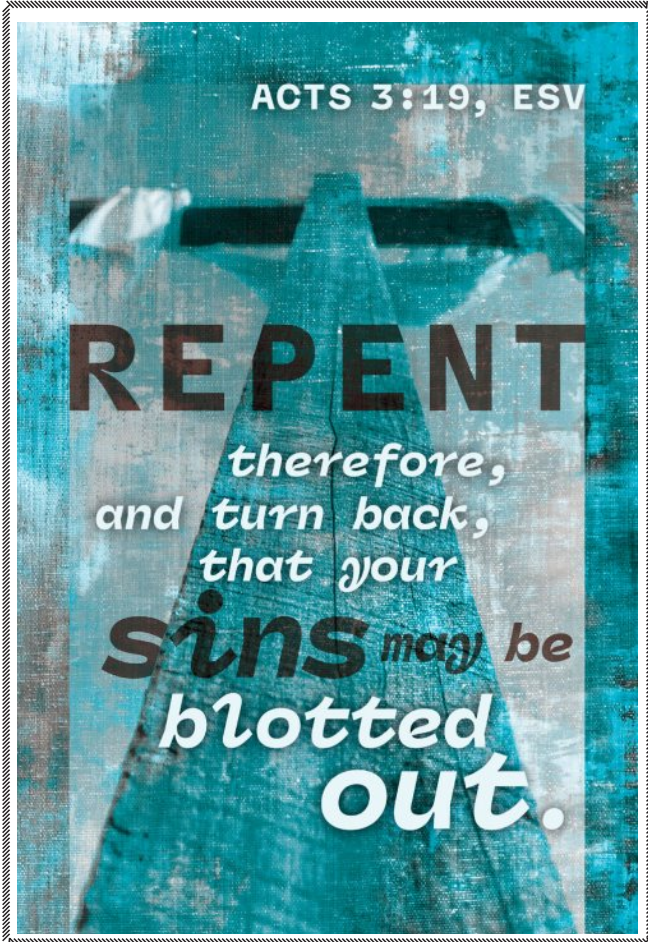
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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:

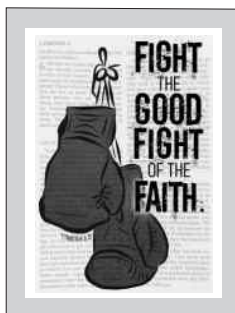
In one of the interludes between major visions in Revelation, there was a spot where there were flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, and the temple in heaven was pictured as opened; what appeared in that temple?

Last week's question: Why did God show Amos a vision of a basket of summer fruit? Answer: *The northern nation Israel was about ready to be taken in to captivity and to disappear (Amos 8:2).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 57
Morning Assembly – 79
Evening Assembly – 52

Wednesday Night (12/20) – 68
Butte Lord's Day – 15
GF Lord's Day – 69,84 Wed. - 45



Release from Captivity

It cannot be overstressed that the war for the souls of men is intense. Most brethren know that there is such a war, but unless a saint is consistently engaged in seeking and saving the lost (and thus seeing many of the roadblocks which Satan throws in the way of progress), he might not be cognizant of the intensity and persistency of the war. "We wanted to come to you (I more than once)," the apostle Paul informed the suffering brethren in Thessalonica, very concerned about their maintaining their faith, "and yet Satan thwarted us" (1 Thessalonians 2:18). The devil will do whatever is in his power to hinder the progress of the true gospel, and will try to divert people's attention away from the only way of salvation through immersion into Christ. He will try to exploit weaknesses in the brethren, or perceived faults

in the gospel-presenter in order to cloud the picture for the soul contemplating his eternity. Paul thus had told Titus to "be an example of good deeds...dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us" (Titus 2:7,8).

- **Working on the "opposition"** – The apostle has just explained to Timothy how important it was that Timothy avoid deliberate quarrels and be able to handle with grace the personal attacks that might be leveled. Timothy's behavior was to be "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition." It is important for the soul-winner to recognize that the lost often are in opposition to the revealed will of God, and make efforts to correct their errors rather than sugar-coat them.
- **Possibility of repentance** – What is important is not so much "winning the argument" but winning the soul. The goal is to open the door, so that "if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:25). If *repentance*, a change of thinking, can take place, then the individual will be open to teaching and thus the knowledge of the truth can be communicated.
- **The devil's snare** – The intensity of the spiritual war for each soul is pictured by the apostle Paul. If the prospects will be repentant and open to teaching, then "they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:26). The lost soul has been ensnared: a big spiritual loop has settled on the neck of the lost individual while he was being lured into the trap. Now he is kidnapped and shoved into a big net, where he and his fellow captives in varying degrees pummel each other in frustration over their prison-like conditions. Satan is capable of a great deal of orchestration as "the god of this world" and manipulation as the world's inhabitants "do his will" and drive the world into lower and lower depths of despair and depravity.
- **Come to their senses** – The soul-winning saint is hard at work, making his appeal on God's behalf for people to open their minds to God's truths. "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18). If the disciple of Christ can do his part to help the wayward sheep reason carefully on the truthfulness of scripture, then that disparaged individual can "come to his senses" and believe and obey the gospel.

Christ has so ordained that the lost are saved through the efforts of faithful brethren. In the process, the brethren learn more about the love of God for the souls of men, and undergo transformation themselves in the process of helping the lost to be extricated from the devil's snare. The saint ceases to be quarrelsome, but ends up being "kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, and with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition." Praise be to the All Wise for His multifaceted plan in working to redeem the souls of men!

The goal is to
help the captives
escape the snare
of the devil.