

**“For You have worked wonders,
Plans formed long ago, with perfect
faithfulness.”
-- Isaiah 25:1**



Ryan Compton leading the opening
Christ's Church in Great Falls
Great Falls, MT

**“Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise
remains of entering His rest, any one of you
should seem to have come short of it.”**

Hebrews 4:1

Win one more in 2024 - "...he who is wise wins souls" - Proverbs 11:30

January 21, 2024

Christ's Church

Meeting at

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

BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Josh Wallace

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Justin Shanahan

L.S. - Brayden Miller

Preaching - Luke Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -

* **GROUPS STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**

L.S. - Jeff Landsgaard

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Dan McDunn

L.S. - Caleb Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Cole Hunsicker

Preaching - Jay Wilson

Bozeman

Prayer and fasting for evangelism -

Jan. 20,21

Jan. 21 - Fellowship dinner; "chili and pie"

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. 21 - Prayer and fasting for evangelism

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl - Mar. 16, 2024

Ladies' Advance - April 18-20, 2024, Beartooth Christian Camp, Fishtail, MT

Montana Youth Camp - June 9-14 (also at Fishtail)

Men's "Peaks" - July 25-27, 2024

Family Camp - Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024

Blessed be the
God and Father
of our
Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy
he has given us a

new birth
into a
living hope

through the
resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV



Question of the week:

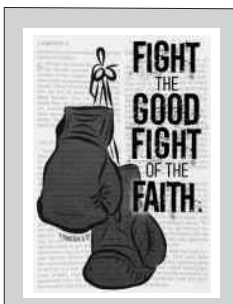
In Jesus' parable, what did the merchant do when he found the pearl of great price?

Last week's question: After Jacob was sent off to Paddan-Aram to find a wife, the Lord appeared to him and reiterated the same key promise He had made to Abraham. What was that promise? *Answer: "in your seed shall the families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 28:14).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 69
Morning Assembly – 84
Evening Assembly – 52

Wednesday Night (1/17) – 58
Butte Lord's Day – 7 (+ 9 phone)
GF Lord's Day – 71,83 Wed. - 57



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Powering through Persecutions

Pain is a necessary part of human existence. Without pain, there is no feedback mechanism in place so that safety boundaries can be maintained in earth's often hostile and dangerous environment. The stove may be hot, but if the finger does not feel the pain, then some major damage is going to occur. The result, then, is that mankind learns to avoid pain, and that is generally the safe and intelligent course to follow. However, the picture changes a bit in the spiritual arena. The saint is exhorted to go into a hostile world with the gospel, encountering not only its directly physical challenges but also facing its subtleties and trickery. Hence the follower of Christ has to set aside his naturally developed desire to avoid pain, and be willing to face with joy the pain that comes with persecution.

- **Perseverance** – A prerequisite for facing pain is perseverance; without perseverance, the individual just quits the first time discomfort shows it head. God, then, has a plan for developing perseverance through difficulties, so that when real persecution arrives, the saint has been toughened up enough to go through the suffering victoriously. “We also exult in our tribulations,” Paul pointed out to the brethren in Rome, “knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance, and perseverance, proven character” (Romans 5:3,4). The apostle Paul commends Timothy, saying that he followed Paul’s example of perseverance in continuing to take the gospel to the lost and work at edifying the saints (2 Timothy 3:10).
- **Persecutions and sufferings** – Timothy also imitated Paul in his willingness to suffer persecution for the sake of the gospel. “You followed,” says Paul, “my persecutions and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra” (2 Timothy 3:10,11). Many of the details of these events on Paul’s first missionary journey with Barnabas are not given in the book of Acts, only hinted at. Timothy, being from Lystra as mentioned earlier, probably was a witness of much of this persecution which came upon Paul, and knew that the same sort of thing would happen to him when he made his decision to follow Paul during Paul’s second missionary journey.
- **“What persecutions!”** – Many of the Jews, especially among the leaders, became very hostile to the gospel when they rejected it. “You also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen,” Paul mentioned in his letter to the Thessalonians, as the churches “in Judea” (1 Thessalonians 2:14). Paul, looking back on even the first missionary journey and his preaching in Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, exclaimed, “what persecutions I endured,” adding, “and out of them all the Lord delivered me” (2 Timothy 3:11). When Luke wrote his history as the book of Acts, he really focused on the spread of the gospel rather than on the difficulties the brethren encountered. No description, for example, of Paul’s trials in Ephesus is given, but the apostle commented about those in his second epistle to the Corinthian brethren: “In Asia,” he recalled, “we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life” (2 Corinthians 1:8). But it was at Lystra, Timothy’s home town, that Paul was stoned, dragged outside the city, and left for dead. No wonder, then, that he would say to Timothy, “what persecutions I endured”!
- **Deliverance** – But Paul doesn’t wallow in the sludge of difficulties. He looks instead to the positive, pointing out that “out of them all the Lord delivered me” (2 Timothy 3:11). Through all sufferings, beatings, and persecutions that the great apostle went through, his attention was fixed on things above. “Momentary, light affliction,” was the terminology he used in writing to the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 4:17).

That persecution happens is a commentary on the present evil age.

Modern saints can take lessons from the apostle on how to handle “afflictions” which increasingly will come on Christians as the forces of darkness increase their influence. “And indeed,” asseverates the apostle, “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). This is not an attempt on the part of the apostle to scare anyone; it is rather a commentary on the evilness of this present age. The key point to remember is that even though Paul and his associates were “burdened beyond” their strength, they came through victorious because the Lord strengthened them!

JAY WILSON