"You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel." -- Psalm 22:23

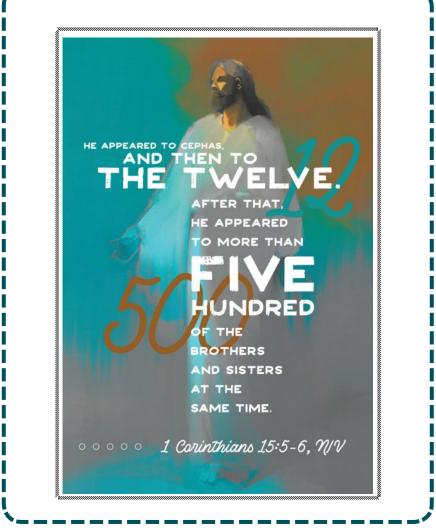


Spanish Peaks portion of the Madison Range view from Spain Bridge Road near Christ's Church in Bozeman Bozeman, MT

"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

Galatians 5:1





## Question of the week:

Jesus was "the stone which the builders rejected." What would happen to those who would fall on "this stone," and what would happen to those upon those upon whom it fell?

Last week's question: After Jacob died in Egypt, where was he buried? Answer: He was buried with Abraham and Isaac in the cave Machpelah, which Abraham had purchased from Ephron the Hittite near Hebron (Genesis 50:13).

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 73	Wednesday Night (1/31) — 63
Morning Assembly – 108	Butte Lord's Day – 13
Evening Assembly – 52	GF Lord's Day – 75,98 Wed 53

## The Epistles to the Evangelists



## All Scripture Is Inspired...

Jesus' question is worth considering again: "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" Or the follow-up question, "For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36,37). The point of the questions, clearly, is to get those within the hearing of Jesus' voice to understand the eternal value of their souls and not sell them for a mess of pottage. Some of the basics of scripture are straight-forward: the record shows that all those who are old enough to "know better" have sinned and fallen short of the glory of the Lord, that one such sin separates the sinner from God, and that individual — unless he has his sins forgiven and is in fellowship with God — will perish in the eternal hell fire on Judgment Day. Hence, as the apostle Paul stated in his first epistle to Timothy.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). "The gospel ... by which you are saved," averred the apostle, has the elements "of first importance ... that Christ died for our sins according to the [Old Testament] scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the [Old Testament] scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

- Old Testament foundation Much groundwork for the coming of Christ was laid in the writings which are called the Old Testament. The prophecies and the foreshadows are so clearly recorded therein that they are appealed to repeatedly in the New Testament writings to establish the claims concerning Jesus and His kingdom. Thus the apostle Paul wrote to his son in the faith, Timothy, that "from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).
- Inspired by God The apostle affirms the Source of the sacred writings. "All scripture," says he, "is inspired by God" (2 Timothy 3:16). These "God-breathed" words were recorded first in Hebrew, then later in Greek, and distributed throughout the

Israelite communities scattered throughout much of the ancient world. James, elder in the church in Jerusalem, in pointing out that the Old Testament prophesied the coming of the Gentiles into the body of Christ, phrased the point in this fashion: "For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath" (Acts 15:21). These scriptures, then, accepted as inspired, could be appealed to by new covenant preachers in making their points.

The words of the entire Bible can be appealed to as final authority!

The apostle Peter, in his second epistle, made this significant point: "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:20,21). In his first letter he also noted: "As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry seeking to know what person or time *the Spirit of Christ* within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow" (1 Peter 1:10,11). The apostles clearly affirmed the inspiration of the entire Old Testament, and any honest examination of the "sacred writings" will satisfy the examiner that those claims are true.

New covenant writings – The apostle Peter verified the inspiration of Paul's writings, (and Paul claimed he got his information directly from God). Peter made the point that some of Paul's writings were deep and difficult to understand, which, he said, "the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the scriptures" (2 Peter 3:15,16). Peter posited that Paul's writings were just as much "scriptures" as were the Old Testament writings. By extension, all the books in the new covenant are also scriptures, and "inspired by God."

"All scripture," then, including the new covenant writings, are inspired by God. It is exciting, comforting, and powerful that the words of the entire Bible can be appealed to as final and of absolute authority!

JAY WILSON