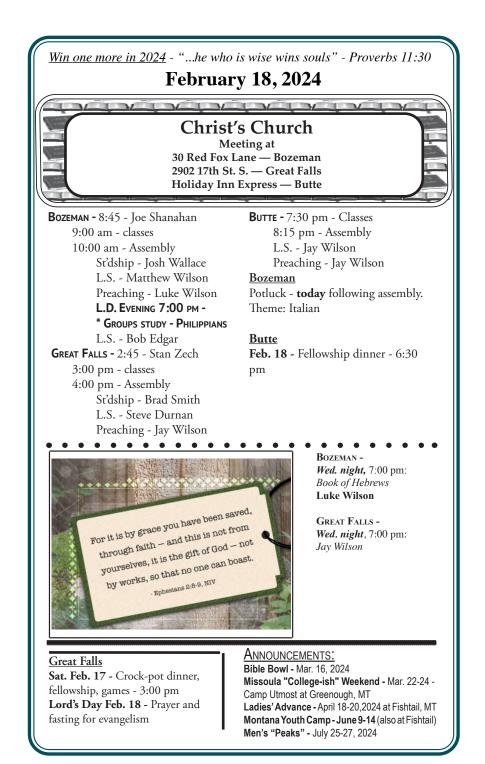
"And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken." -- Ezekiel 34:24



Kids from Great Falls Wed. night assembly Christ's Church in Great Falls Great Falls, MT

"Now for several days [Saul of Tarsus] was with the disciples who were at Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' " Acts 9:19b,20





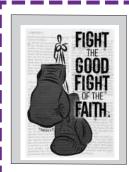
Question of the week:

Where was the synagogue where Jesus is first recorded as casting out a demon as recorded in the gospel according to Mark?

Last week's question: When Moses took the blood of the offerings which the young men had prepared at the base of Sinai, he sprinkled it on the people. What did he say about that blood? *Answer: "Behold, the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you" (Exodus 24:8).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 68Wednesday Night (2/14) – 63Morning Assembly – 102Butte Lord's Day – 10Evening Assembly – 48GF Lord's Day – 73,87 Wed. - 44



The Epistles to the Evangelists

The Charge!

This earth exists for one purpose only: it is a habitation for the formation of those who will voluntarily be "born from above" to walk in the footsteps of Christ. When the point is reached where there are no further prospects on the planet that are truth-seekers, the purpose for earth is done, along with the heavens also. "As a mantle," the writer of Hebrews quoted the psalmist, "You will roll them up; and as a garment they will also be changed" (Hebrews 1:12). But until that point the urgent commission of Jesus stands. "Go into all the world," He said, "and *preach* the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). "God was well-pleased," commented the apostle Paul, "through the foolishness of the message *preached* to

save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21). Paul further instructed the Corinthian brethren, "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I *preached* to you..." (1 Corinthians 15:1). Hence the apostle is going to "charge" Timothy: PREACH THE WORD!

Foundation for the charge – The apostle wants to put the appropriate weight on the importance of what he is about to enjoin upon Timothy. Listen as these roll from the pen of Paul: "I solemnly charge you..." (2 Timothy 4:1). Not just a charge, a solemn charge!"...in the presence of God and Christ Jesus..." Timothy's inspired mentor ushers him into the very presence of the awesome God, such as pictured in Ezekiel chapter one, and also into the presence of Jesus Christ. Every word and every attitude will be weighed, but also every encouragement will be given from the throne on high. And what about Christ Jesus? He is the One "who is to judge the living and the dead." What more weight can Paul throw onto the pile? "By His appearing," is added, draw

ing attention to the imminence of Jesus' second coming and the urgency of shortened time. The final piece is put in place: "...and His kingdom." The kingdom of Christ was prophesied as the one kingdom which would last forever, and it is the kingdom to which the new saint is transferred when he is extricated from the domain of darkness (Colossians 1:13,14). There is no more weight which could be given to Paul's solemn charge to Timothy!

The strategy of God in His warfare is simple: *Preach the word!* Preach the word – While the writing of books

is multitudinous, and the shouting of kings is plenteous, there is only one message that is called, "the word." "Preach *the word*," states the apostle (2 Timothy 4:2). "The word" is the message delivered from heaven, transmitted through God's agents. Jesus Himself set the example at His home in Capernaum at the time the paralyzed man was let down through the hole in Jesus' roof. "Many were gathered together," says the holy writ, "so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He words of reason, its terms are non-negotiable, and its doctrines are not to be tampered with. The pronouncements of God are heralded from on high, and all mankind is to heed this message that is preached!

In season and out of season – The apostle exhorted Timothy to preach that word "in season and out of season." Anyone familiar with regulated hunting knows the difference between "in season" and "out of season." The point here is that the word is to be preached even at times when the audience might think it inappropriate; the eternal affairs of heaven trump the fleeting moments of man's pursuits.

Implicit in Paul's charge to Timothy, and the weight he placed upon the charge, is that there is tremendous opposition to "the message preached." The entire array of the forces of darkness is bristling with opposition to the message of the gospel's reaching the corners of lost man's existence. Every army that marches, every editorial that issues broadsides, every piece of propaganda that is distributed...everything is part of the warfare for or against the gospel. The strategy of God in his warfare is simple: PREACH THE WORD!