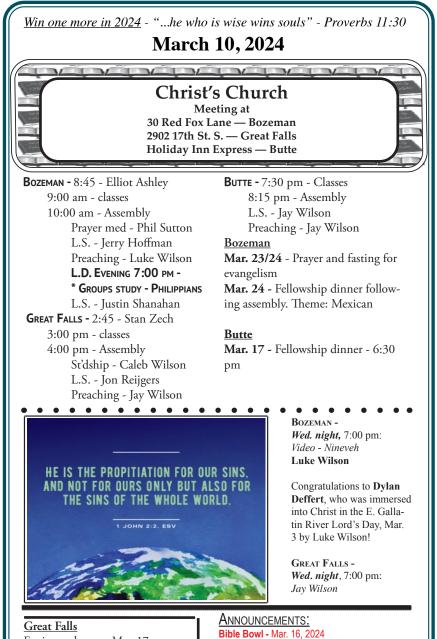
"Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith." -- Habakkuk 2:4



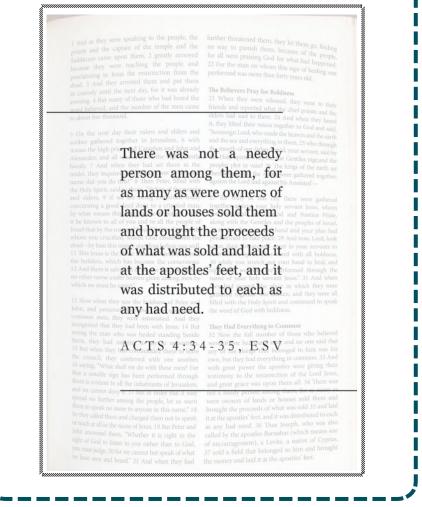
Jody Clark and Lisa McDunn both of Great Falls, MT enjoying some fun fellowship at Oregon Family Camp near Springfield, OR

"Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." *Mark 10:23,24* 



Fasting and prayer Mar. 17

Missoula "College-ish" Weekend - Mar. 22-24 -Camp Utmost at Greenough, MT Ladies' Advance - April 18-20,2024 at Fishtail, MT Montana Youth Camp - June 9-14 (also at Fishtail) Men's "Peaks" - July 25-27, 2024



## Question of the week:

What kind of trumpets, according to the book of Numbers, were used to call all Israel together at the tent of meeting?

Last week's question: When the rich young ruler approached Jesus as recorded in the gospel according to Mark, in response to the young man's calling Jesus "good," what did Jesus say about who was good? *Answer: "No one is good except God alone" (Mark 10:18).* 

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 76Wednesday Night (3/6) – 73Morning Assembly – 113Butte Lord's Day – 19Evening Assembly – 64GF Lord's Day – 71,94 Wed. - 51



The Epistles to the Evangelists

## **Telling the Truth of the Gospel**

"God," said the apostle Paul, "is not a God of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33). But Satan is a "god of confusion," doing all that is in his power to obfuscate the truths of the gospel and God's word. Headed for the eternal lake of fire himself, he is so evil that he wants to drag all the inhabitants of the earth down with him. In the process, he opposes strenuously the word of truth, which is the only guide for those "who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life" (Romans 2:7). The opposition takes many forms. Sometimes it is outright persecution and death for those who truly follow the ways of Christ. Sometimes it is intimidation, or peer pressure. Sometimes it is "the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes

and the boastful pride of life" (1 John 2:16). Sometimes it is massive confusion, or control of the sources of information. All of this, then, Timothy will have to encounter and overcome, as will any true evangelist working in the world. "But you," says Paul therefore, "be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:5).

- Be sober in all things The spiritual landscape through which Timothy must travel is a dangerous one. There are landmines, pitfalls, open enemies, hidden enemies, plus personal temptation. Paul's injunction to be "sober" reflects the watchfulness "in all things" that will be required in order for Timothy to spread the gospel effectively. "Sober" shows up numerous times in Paul's instruction. It is directly related to abstaining from wine, but the thrust of the point is to be very serious and careful about all the wiles of the devil.
- Endure hardship The life of a true evangelist is not going to be easy. In Timothy's case, there would be travel challenges as well as dealing with false doctrine and church problems. Fighting his way through rain and mud, sleet and heat would be part of Timothy's lifestyle. There would be sleepless nights, hostile encounters, debates with false brethren, necessity of rebuking elders who had gone astray, and late-night Bible

studies. There would be saints' time, reaching-thelost time, preaching publicly and house to house time, and prison time. Any man looking for an easy life should not even think about being an evangelist for the Lord!

 Do the work of an evangelist – Paul had instructed Titus concerning the congregations on the island of Crete to "set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city" (Titus 1:5). That is a massive amount of preaching and teaching, personal meetings, preparing congregations, and handling An evangelist must have a tremendous desire to save souls!

objections scripturally. It isn't having a title that makes a man an evangelist; it is the ability not only to be capable of doing the work, but of actually getting the job done. The apostle emphasized "the work."

Fulfill your ministry – "God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body just as He desired" (1 Corinthians 12:18). Timothy, like all Christians, had his own special spot in God's purpose. Having known from his youth the sacred writings, having had a wonderful mother and spiritual grandmother, having been circumcised to have access to the synagogues, and having been a kindred spirit of Paul, much could be expected of Timothy. "Fulfill your ministry," says Paul. Every fiber of Timothy's being was to be focused on carrying out his work as an evangelist as the Lord opened the way. What a great and meaningful life!

If a Christian man becomes a preacher because it is a job or a career by which he can make a living and support a family, he will not be able to go through the hard work and necessary hardships that go with being a true evangelist. He will most likely cave in to pressure and compromise the gospel or get discouraged and quit. It is not even enough to desire to simply "preach the word." He must have an underlying tremendous desire to save souls and carry out the mission and commission of Jesus Christ. Only then will he be able soberly and with joy to "do the work of an evangelist."

JAY WILSON