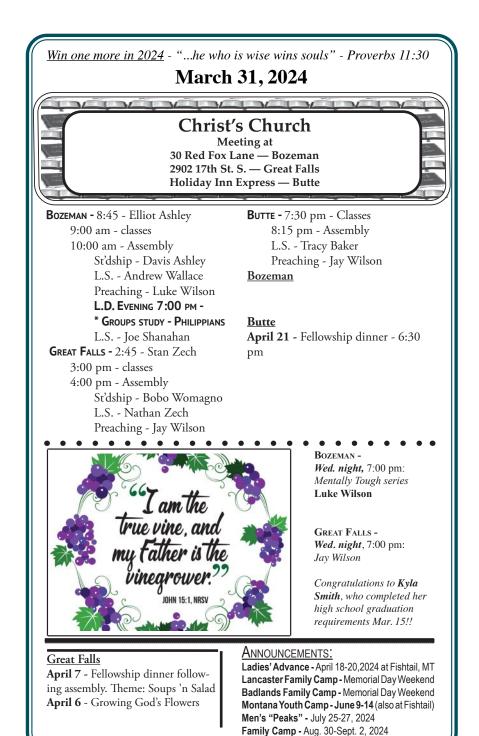
"Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good." -- Ecclesiastes 11:6

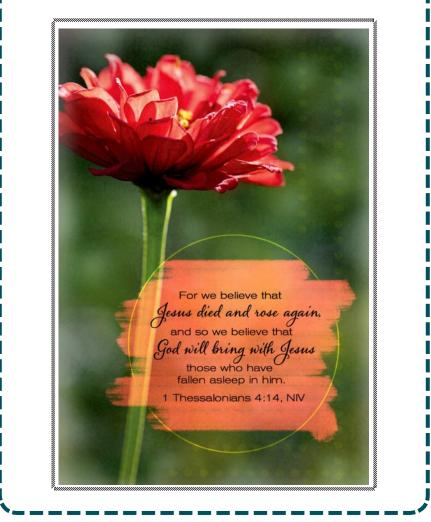


Youth team from Great Falls winners of the "Spiritual Leadership Award" for the Youth Division Bible Bowl 2024 Christ's Church Bozeman, MT

"And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bondservants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

Revelation 11:18





Question of the week:

In gospel according to Luke's parallel to Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, what did Jesus say about disciples' being merciful?

Last week's question: The Lord through Moses ordered Israel to take vengeance upon the Midianites because of the idolatry that they were pulling Israel into. What major trouble-maker was killed along with the Midianites? *Answer: Balaam the false prophet (Numbers 31:8).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 66 Morning Assembly – 93 Evening Assembly – 50

Wednesday Night (3/27) – 57 Butte Lord's Day – 17 GF Lord's Day – 60,81 *Wed.* - 61



The Epistles to the Evangelists

Information and Instruction for Timothy

As the apostle begins to close out his last epistle to Timothy, conscious that his earthly end is near, he makes some final comments. Very personal in nature, they establish that this letter was written by Paul and is not a made-up forgery. They also give us insight into the early church, some of the people connected with Paul, some of the disappointments, and some of the battles. The earnestness of his final appeals to Timothy shines through.

 Come soon – The apostle is in prison in Rome; Timothy likely is in Ephesus (where Onesiphorus lived – 2 Timothy 1:16; 4:19). Paul knows that his earthly time is short, and since Timothy must travel from Ephesus, the apostle is asking for him to make haste. "Make every effort to come to me soon," he says (2 Timothy 4:9). He then gives reasons.

• Demas deserted me – Demas had been a fellow worker with Paul, having been listed in a favorable manner with other fellow workers in the books of Colossians and Philemon. It must have pained the old apostle considerably to write "Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica" (2 Timothy 4:10). Demas' record stands as a sober warning to anyone that each must maintain his faith firm to the end, and not let anything "of this present world" creep in and redirect his spiritual focus. It is eternally fatal!

- Other workers "Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia," the apostle notes. Paul had been able to amass a wonderful team of evangelists who worked separately but who also coordinated so that their works did not overlap. Crescens is not mentioned elsewhere but was known to Timothy and who had gone to work where the Galatian congregations were located. Titus, one of the more prominent evangelists garnering attention in the inspired record, has gone to Dalmatia, an area related to Illyricum near modern Kosovo.
- Luke-Luke, the beloved physician, was Paul's faithful companion to the end. From the time of Paul's imprisonment at the end of his third missionary journey and his being escorted under guard to Rome, Luke was by his side. "Only Luke is with me," is Paul's commentary. Without the Lord's having Luke standing by the aged apostle, the story could have been much different. Luke, then, would be able to have Paul as a resource, and record his gospel account and the book of Acts.

"Make every effort to come to me soon."

Mark-On the first missionary journey, John also called Mark and nephew of Barnabas, bailed out before the mission was accomplished. When Barnabas wanted to take the young man with them on the second missionary journey Paul was so adamantly opposed to Mark's going with them that Paul and Barnabas had to part company (but with no animosity). Now Paul says, at the end of his life, "Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service." What a wonderful turn-around! Mark had been a close associate of Peter, as Peter indicates in the close of his first epistle, referring to him as "my son, Mark" and included in those sending greetings. Mark, like Luke with Paul, was able to use Peter as a resource in writing his gospel account.

Tychicus – Tychicus gets some very good "honorable mentions" from Paul, called a "beloved brother" and faithful servant in both the epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians. He was one of those entrusted to guard the offering from the Gentiles as recorded in Acts 20, and one Paul contemplated sending to Titus. "But Tychicus," says Paul to Timothy, "I have sent to Ephesus" (2 Timothy 4:12). These team playing evangelists were willing to let Paul serve as a general in the spiritual army, and often willing to go where he directed them. Humble men all!

Paul gives a closing directive to Timothy. "When you come," he instructs, "bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments" (2 Timothy 4:13). For whatever reason Paul had left his cloak at Troas, and for some reason he wanted it with him in Rome. The reference to "the books, especially the parchments" is interesting. These could have been some of his writings already collected, and possibly for Luke's use in writing his gospel account and the book of Acts.

Again, these are very personal instructions, and would be very difficult for an imposter to conjure up.

JAY WILSON