

“BUT FOR YOU WHO FEAR MY NAME, THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RISE WITH HEALING IN ITS WINGS; AND YOU WILL GO FORTH AND SKIP ABOUT LIKE CALVES FROM THE STALL.”

--MALACHI 4:2



“The Dynamos”
Team from Bozeman
winners of the High School division
2024 Bible Bowl
at Christ’s Church in Bozeman

And they began laughing at Him, knowing that she had died. He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Child, arise!” And her spirit returned, and she got up immediately; and He gave orders for something to be given her to eat.

Luke 8:53-55

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

April 7, 2024

Christ's Church

Meeting at

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

BOZEMAN - 8:45 -

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

Prayer med - Joe Shanahan

L.S. - Tommy Widner

Preaching - Luke Wilson

L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -

*** GROUPS STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**

L.S. - Brian Schweitzer

GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Jon Reijgers

L.S. - Zac Zech

Preaching - Jay Wilson

BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Classes

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

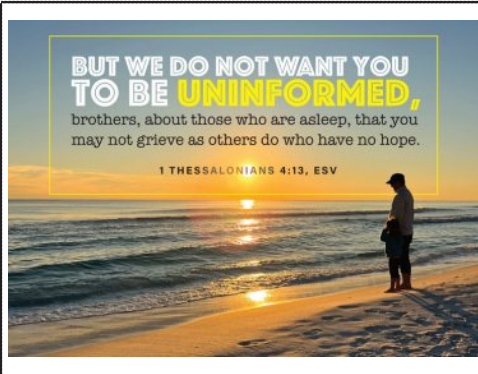
Preaching - Jay Wilson

Great Falls

Congratulations to **Shannon Sullins**, who was immersed in Jesus' name on Lord's Day, Mar. 31, by Rick Vaught.

Butte

April 21 - Fellowship dinner - 6:30 pm



BOZEMAN -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:
Mentally Tough series
Luke Wilson

GREAT FALLS -

Wed. night, 7:00 pm:
Jay Wilson

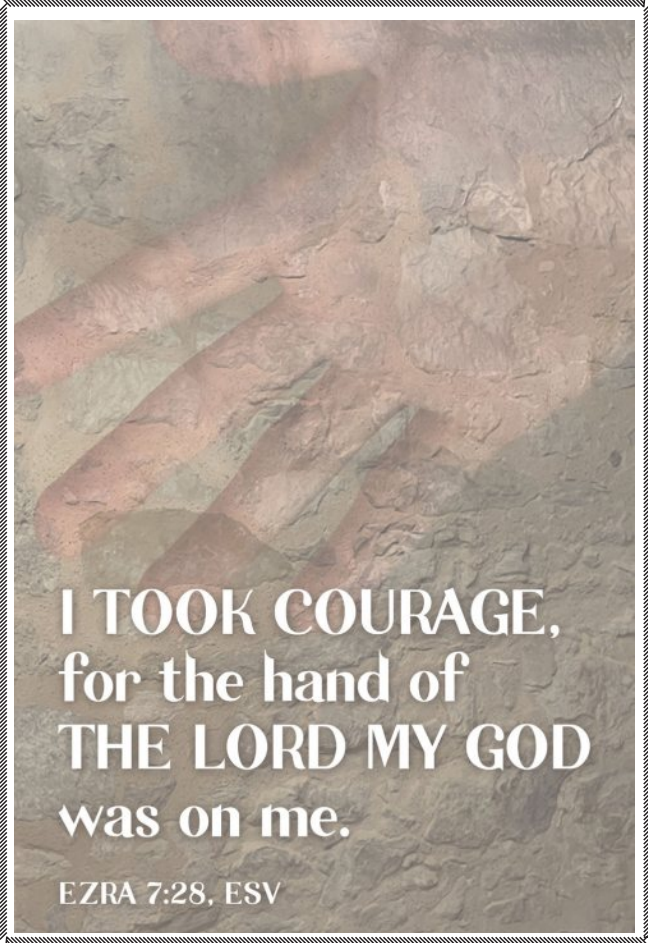
*Congratulations to **Levi DuPaul**, who was immersed into Christ on Thurs. April 4 by Caleb Wilson!!*

Great Falls

April 7 - Fellowship dinner following assembly. Theme: Soups 'n Salad

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ladies' Advance - April 18-20, 2024 at Fishtail, MT
Lancaster Family Camp - Memorial Day Weekend
Badlands Family Camp - Memorial Day Weekend
Montana Youth Camp - June 9-14 (also at Fishtail)
Men's "Peaks" - July 25-27, 2024
Family Camp - Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024



I TOOK COURAGE,
for the hand of
THE LORD MY GOD
was on me.

EZRA 7:28, ESV

Question of the week:

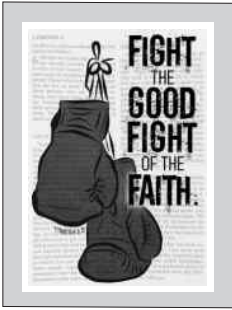
In Deuteronomy, what kind of person did God say that He would raise up similar to Moses?

Last week's question: In the gospel according to Luke's parallel to Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, what did Jesus say about disciples' being merciful? *Answer: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 80
Morning Assembly – 100
Evening Assembly – 36

Wednesday Night (4/3) – 57
Butte Lord's Day – 20
GF Lord's Day – 81,103 Wed. - 59



The Coppersmith and the Lion's Mouth

Luke's faithful records in the book of Acts are necessarily very brief. Recording the complete history of the lives of Peter, Paul, and the other elements of the early church would have been a large volume and impractical for use by the future Christians. As mentioned, the Acts account of Paul's time in Ephesus does not indicate persecution or disturbances except for the riot in connection with Demetrius the silversmith as recorded in Acts chapter 19. It is worth recalling the words of Paul from his second epistle to the Corinthians, speaking of the "affliction which came to us in Asia" (2 Corinthians 1:8). He remembered "that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life." The suffering was so intense that the apostle

expressed it in these terms: "we had the sentence of death within ourselves" (2 Corinthians 1:9). And he had mentioned in his first epistle to those brethren that he had "fought with wild beasts at Ephesus" (1 Corinthians 15:32). These gleanings indicate that Paul was definitely challenged in the distribution of the gospel in Asia.

- **Alexander the coppersmith** – In Ephesus, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm" (2 Timothy 4:14). It is a guess as to whom this coppersmith was. There was an Alexander whom the Jews put forward during the riot in Ephesus. As a spokesman, he would have been a good defender of the Jewish system, and he may also have had the credentials of being a coppersmith and therefore fitted to speak in the theater at Ephesus during the chaos created by the metalworkers.
- **"Be on guard"** – It would not be often that the apostle Paul would encounter an opponent who would be able to turn the audience in the wrong direction with argumentation. The coppersmith, states Paul, "did me much harm." Paul warns Timothy, "Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching" (2 Timothy 4:15). He rose up as a formidable opponent, apparently, for Paul to have to speak to Timothy so forcefully. "At my first defense," Paul continues in his recollection, "no one supported me, but all deserted me" (2 Timothy 4:16). He parenthetically adds, concerning the audience who were bamboozled and possibly pressured by the wily coppersmith, "may it not be counted against them." And of Alexander the coppersmith, he says, "the Lord will repay him according to his deeds."
- **"The Lord stood with me"** – Jesus had promised the apostles (and by extension, all Christians) that He would not abandon them. "I will not leave you as orphans," He had said (John 14:18). In his encounters with Alexander (more than just one encounter, because Paul had spoken of his "first defense"), the apostle had assistance. "But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me" he recalled gratefully, "in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear" (2 Timothy 4:17). That is what Jesus wants: for His commission to be carried out, that the gospel be proclaimed "to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

The apostle uses the phrase: "the proclamation might be fully accomplished." A partial proclamation that only deals with the cross of Christ and forgiveness of sins is not going to accomplish the Lord's desire. The gift of the indwelling Spirit is to be stressed. The fact that the old self has been buried with Christ in immersion is to be explained, and that God has performed an entirely new creative act in bringing forth a "new creation: out of the watery womb. As the apostle commented to the Colossian brethren, that his goal was to "fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery" (Colossians 1:25,26).

"The Lord stood with me," Paul had stated, "and strengthened me, and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth." Having referenced Paul's "fighting with the wild beasts at Ephesus," it is very possible that he was referring to a literal lion who was trying to get the apostle in his jaws. It is also possible that he was referring to "the roaring lion," Satan, who is "seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). In either case, Paul was delivered, and was able to keep right on teaching and preaching the gospel of God.

"The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me."