

**“The LORD will protect you from all evil;  
He will keep your soul.  
The LORD will guard your going out and  
your coming in  
From this time forth and forever.”  
-- Psalm 121;7,8**



Lorenzo Serrano, of Billings, MT  
leading the morning devotion  
MT Family Camp 2024  
on the grounds of Christ's Church in Bozeman

**Peter preaching to Cornelius and his household: “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”**

***Acts 10:42,43***

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

## September 15, 2024

### Christ's Church

Meeting at

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

**BOZEMAN - 8:45 -** Brayden Miller

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Luke Jacobs

L.S. - Jerry Hoffman

Preaching - Luke Wilson

**L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -**

**\* GROUPS STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**

L.S. - Gary DiPaolo

**GREAT FALLS - 2:45 -** Stan Zech

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Caleb Wilson

L.S. - Levi DuPaul

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**BUTTE - 7:30 pm -** Class

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Joe Martin

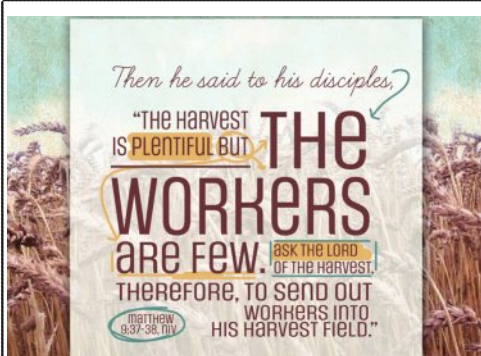
Preaching - Jay Wilson

#### **Bozeman**

*Congratulations to **Jon Shanahan**, who was immersed into Christ on Wed. Sept. 4 by his dad Jason Shanahan!!!*

*Congratulations to **Glen Ball**, of Morning Sun, Iowa, who was immersed into Christ on Tues. Sept. 10 by Jay Wilson!!!*

*Congratulations to **Beau Cook**, who was immersed into Christ in the Gallatin River on Fri. Sept. 13 by Luke Wilson!!!*



**BOZEMAN -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**

*Study on Hebrews*

**Luke Wilson**

**GREAT FALLS -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**

*Jay Wilson*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Spiritual Warriors -** Fri, Sat, Oct 25,26

**Bible Bowl -** March 15, 2025

**Ladies' Advance -** May 1-3, 2025

**Men's Peaks -** July 24-26, 2025

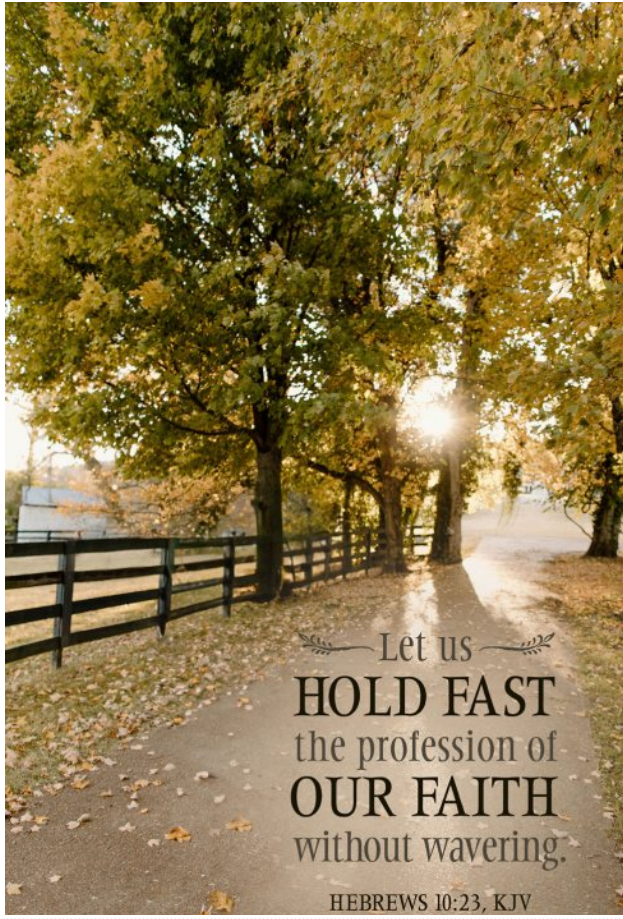
**Family Camp -** Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 202

#### Great Falls

**Sept. 15 -** Fasting and prayer for evangelism

#### Butte

**Sept. 15 -** Fellowship dinner - 6:30



**Question of the week:**

In 2 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul challenges the Corinthians (and us) to test ourselves. For what purpose?

Last week's question: In Psalm 48, Mt. Zion in the far north is called the city of the great \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Answer: King (Psalm 48:2).*

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:**

Bible School – 68  
Morning Assembly – 96  
Evening Assembly – 58

Wednesday Night (9/11) – 60  
Butte Lord's Day – 12  
GF Lord's Day – 70, 105 Wed. - 61



## Reasonings from Revelation

### *To the Church in Ephesus*

"The seven stars," the Christ informs the audience, "are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches" of the Roman province of Asia. As mentioned, the "angels" are the "messengers" who will read this letter publicly to the congregations. "To the angel of the church in Ephesus," come the instructions, "write." This is the One in whose presence John fell as a dead man, so there is no hesitancy in obeying His command! "The One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand," is the authoritative picture, "the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this..." (Revelation 2:1).

- **"I know..."** – There are some words of commendation coming from the Christ. "I know," says the Christ, "your deeds and your toil and perseverance..." (Revelation 2:2). The congregation was a hard-working group, they "toiled" and thus worked through difficult, challenging, and tiring situations. They were also perseverant in that they continued positively engaging over a long period of time, and were not turned aside from what they were doing by persecution or intimidation.
- **Morally and doctrinally** – Jesus also commends the church at Ephesus on their stand for righteousness and truth. He states "that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false." The congregation was clearly handling moral issues that had arisen inside the local church, and handling them properly. The congregation was also sound doctrinally, having tested the claims those who were purporting to be apostles, and found those claims false. Congregations that are weakening on doctrinal issues do not follow through that process.
- **"For My name's sake"** – Even the motive underlying the church at Ephesus' actions was correct. "You have perseverance," the Lord again stresses, "and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary" (Revelation 2:3). There is no indication of the congregation as a whole having an agenda that ran counter to the Lord's; what they were doing was in truth for the sake of His name, which is truly commendable.
- **"Left your first love"** – Jesus went on to add this condemnation, "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4). Since the apostle John did not specify directly what that "first love" was, there has been much speculation as to what that might be, such as their losing their love for Christ. But the statements that the congregation was doctrinally solid, tested false apostles, and had perseverance for Jesus' name's sake, militates against that position. Furthermore, they were instructed, "Remember *therefore* from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first" (Revelation 2:5). The "deeds" that any congregation must do "at first" are the works of seeking and saving the lost, otherwise there will not be a congregation. The apparent problem in Ephesus was that the congregation had gotten comfortable with their interactions within the local church itself, and had lost their zeal to carry out Jesus' great commission. They lost their "first love" in reaching out to the darkened souls around them.

**They had lost  
their zeal to carry  
out Jesus' great  
commission!**

The congregation in Ephesus had a lot of boxes where the check marks were positive. But the one box that was not positively checked was a serious one. Jesus said unless the saints got back on track "I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent." The removal of the lampstand would mean that Jesus no longer recognized the congregation as belonging to Him! "Yet this you do have," states the Lord, "that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate" (Revelation 2:6). There is not enough solid information to know exactly who the Nicolaitans were, but they were clearly leading people away from the truth.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches," pleads the Christ. "To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7). (More on the tree of life later.) Clearly, the reward for overcoming is great enough to make going through the suffering worthwhile!

JAY WILSON