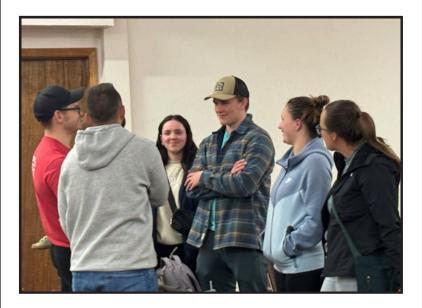
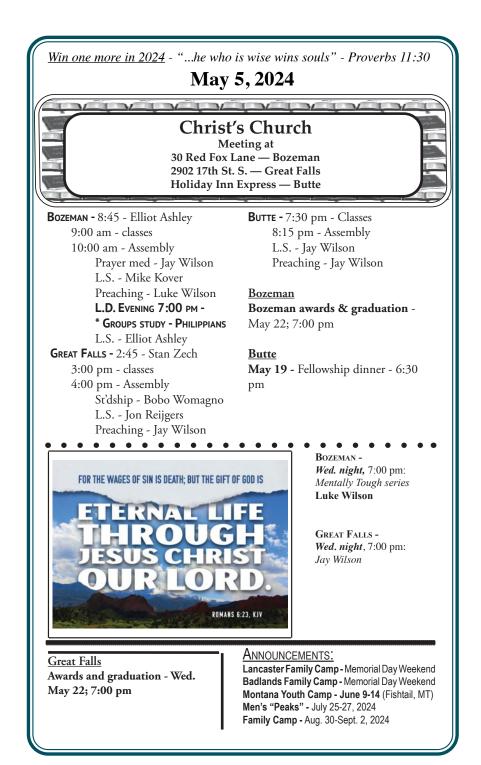
"At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people." -- Jeremiah 31:1

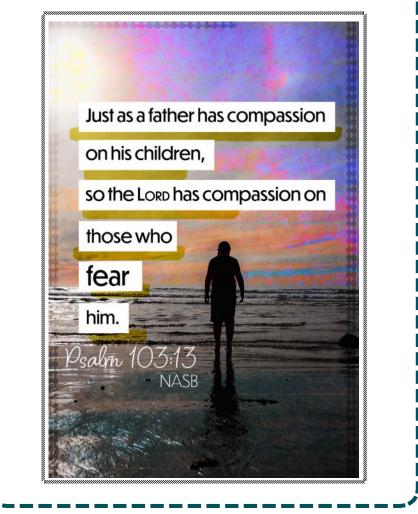


One of the groups visiting and having great fellowship following Wednesday evening assembly Christ's Church Great Falls, MT

"Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus"

Mark 15:43





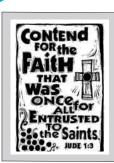
Question of the week:

The judge Samson tied some foxes together by two's, put a burning torch in between the foxes, and turned them loose into the Philistines standing grain. How many foxes did he catch?

Last week's question: When Jesus appeared to the disciples in the evening of the day when He rose from the dead, what did He say would be preached, beginning from Jerusalem? *Answer: "Repentance for ["and"* - *NKJV] forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 75	Wednesday Night (5/1) — 61
Morning Assembly – 104	Butte Lord's Day – 17
Evening Assembly – 51	GF Lord's Day – 66,90 Wed 56



Jewels from Jude

"Creepy" Persons

There is no "bait and switch" with Jesus Christ and His teachings. At one point a large crowd was following Christ, and possibly a "band-wagon effect" was taking place. The Lord and Savior decided to have an "up front" conversation with the disciples. "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple," He said (Luke 14:27). He followed this statement with two parables illustrating that, before a person makes a decision to be a disciple of Christ, he had better "count the world.

Satan and his emissaries by necessity must work under the cloak of deception. No one in his right mind is consciously going to make a decision to spend eternity in the hellfire, knowing full well what that hellfire is. Hence the forces of darkness must entice people away from making the right decision regarding their eternities, and their agenda must be hidden. Hence comes the warning from Jude.

Creeping in – "The faith," Jude in his pleading, pointed out that it needs to be contended for. Its terms and conditions were set before the foundation of the world, but have been revealed by God's holy apostles and new covenant prophets. And those terms require a belief in and obedience to "the apostles' doctrine." The warning from Jude begins: "For certain persons have crept in unnoticed..." (Jude 1:4). Jude is speaking to the church at large, so this "creeping in" is a general movement in the first century church. They look like "brethren," they talk on the surface like "brethren," they show up at the functions of the "brethren," but they are not "brethren" are not seeing these creepers for who they truly are. God, of course, is not deceived, and Jude assures the brethren that these enemies of the gospel "were long beforehand marked out

for this condemnation." God had predetermined that anyone who trifles with the gospel of the eternal covenant should receive the curse of an eternal judgment. The hellfire awaits.

Distorting grace – God's grace is big enough to cover even the most heinous of sins, blotted out by the sprinkled blood of Christ. The saint, however, may therefore be tempted to take advantage of this grace, having an attitude that he need not make an honest effort in overcoming sin.

"Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?" queried the apostle Paul. The answer is ready: "May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:1,2). Then follows a presentation on how the old self was buried with Christ in immersion, and how a new self arises to walk in newness of life. Another question is waiting: "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?" Again the answer is ready: "May it never be!" (Romans 6:15). Jude thus calls the ear-tickling purveyors of subtle sensuality who would point the brethren in the wrong direction "ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness" (Jude 1:4). It is a seemingly small but important step from "liberty" into "libertine."

These enemies of the gospel must be exposed for what they are. It is often difficult to convince the brethren that these who turn the grace of God into licentiousness are enemies because they are often very personable and their arguments seem to be scriptural. They appeal to the latent fleshly desires of saints, and slowly and carefully get them to "turn away their ears from the truth, and ... turn aside to myths" (2 Timothy 4:4). This is why Jude's call is so strident: "I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith." Brethren are not merely to take notice; they are to step into the fray and contend honestly, consistently, and long-term for the faith once delivered. People's souls are on the line. These personable pretenders are those who actually "deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

Our only Master and Lord requires that saints step up and expose those who have thus crept in. Who can refuse that request?

JAY WILSON

"They appeal to latent fleshly desires of the saints."