

**THOSE WHO ARE FOOLISH AND THOSE
WHO APPROVE THEIR WORDS THINK THAT
THEY WILL LIVE ON EARTH FOREVER**



Beautiful Winter Wonderland scenery
Homestake Pass on I-90
east of Butte, MT

**“For this is the will of My Father, that
everyone who beholds the Son and
believes in Him, may have eternal
life, and I Myself will raise him up on
the last day.”**

John 6:40

December 30, 2018!

Christ's Church

Meeting at
30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman
Comfort Inn — Butte

MORNING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 8:45 a.m.

Opening — Jay Wilson, Elliot Ashley

M.C. — Bob Edgar

Stewardship Exhortation — Nick Kover

Communion Meditation — Chris Gothard

Preaching — Jay Wilson

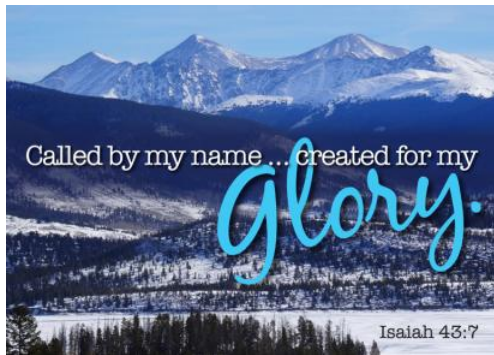
EVENING SCHEDULE:

Bozeman - 7:00 p.m., **Butte - 7:30 p.m.**

M.C. — Phil Sutton, **George Stone**

Communion Meditation — Jay Shoup, **Cole Hunsicker**

Preaching — Jason, Joseph, and Jon Shanahan, **Jay Wilson**



**This Wednesday,
January 2nd –
7:00 p.m. —
Teachings from Phile-
mon
– Phil Sutton**

**New Year's Eve costume party —
December 31, 6:00 pm at
the church building. Bring
snacks/food to share, games,
and costume**

Catch us live or archived:

livestream.com/ccib

christchurchonline.com

Also check out the youtube videos on
targetingtruth.com

and audios at innermanradio.org

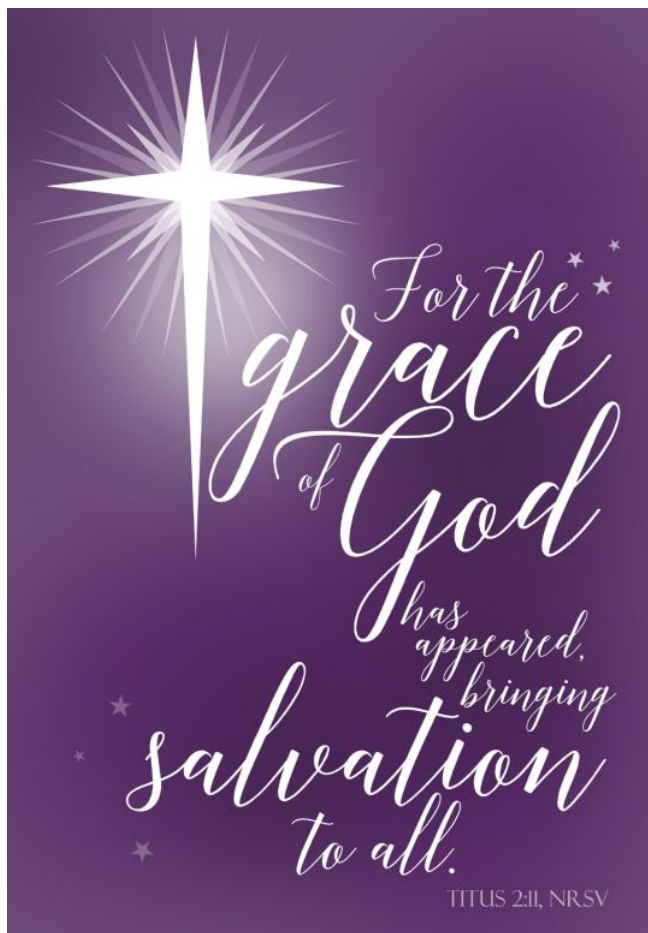
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl — Sat. Mar. 16, 2019, at Bozeman on Romans chapters 1-8

Ladies' Advance — April 25-27

Men's PEAKS — Thurs. through Sat. July 25-27, 2019

Family Camp 2019 — Aug. 30 - Sept. 2 at Bozeman church property



Question of the week:

The river of the water of life shows up in both Revelation 22 and Ezekiel 47. From Jesus' teaching in the gospel according to John, we know that river for all eternity is a reference to _____.

Last week's question: When David describes in the Psalms how he was fearfully and wonderfully made, he also spoke of his days and a book. What was the connection? *Answer: All the days that were ordained for him before there as yet was one of them were written in the book (Psalm 139:16).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 99
Morning Assembly – 120
Evening Assembly – 68

Wednesday Night (12/26) – 80
Butte Lord's Day – 19
Great Falls Lord's Day – 45,85

We
entreat you
on behalf
of Christ, be
reconciled
to God.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:2, 2020

Comfort/encouragement from Second Corinthians ...

Abound in This Gracious Work

The Greek word for *grace* is *charis*, which is the etymological root for the English word *charity*. It is a very broad word, encompassing the grace or favor bestowed upon saints in regard to the blessings connected with being forgiven and thus capable of entering into fellowship with the eternal and holy God. But it also has to do with assisting people with their financial needs, hence one of the meanings of the word *charity* in modern English. Thus, as Paul is in the process of getting together a collection from the Gentile churches for the poor saints in Judea, he will refer to this as “this gracious work.”

▼ **The beginning of the collection** — As Paul and Barnabas finished their meeting with the brethren in Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 15, they—as those who were going directly to the Gentiles—were asked

to remember the poor in Jerusalem. The apostle Paul therefore was working with the Gentile congregations over which he had direct influence to encourage them to participate. Titus, as one of Paul’s close and trusted workers, was sent to Corinth to find out their spiritual condition, as well as begin the process of putting together an offering from the Corinthian congregation. “Consequently,” states the apostle, “we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well” (2 Corinthians 8:6). He had encouraged Titus to get the collection finished, but it is clear that Titus went to meet Paul in Macedonia before that was accomplished.

▼ **Things they abounded in** — The congregation had responded to Paul’s first letter in a repentant fashion, exhibiting zeal and earnestness for the things of God. The apostle is going to note those things, and appeal that they apply the characteristics to this special offering. “But just as you abound in everything,” he reminds them, listing that they abound “in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In his opening statement to the brethren in his first epistle, he had commented that they were “not lacking in any gift,” meaning that they had all the gifts or manifestations of the Spirit given through the laying on of an apostle’s hands. The congregation was comprised of those, then, who would have a special gift of faith, encouraging the other brethren to have faith in God and extend themselves in making this contribution to the saints in Judea. They had those who could prophesy, and those who could deliver messages in foreign tongues and have them interpreted; hence they abounded in “utterance” for the exhortation of the brethren in this matter. They had those who possessed the gift of “knowledge,” who also would be able to strengthen the brethren in God’s will and direct knowledge of His backing them in this project. Because of their newly inspired repentance, they abounded in earnestness in getting the offering done. Finally, the love of God flowing from the Holy Spirit had been “inspired in” them through the preaching, teaching, and example of the apostle and his traveling companions.

▼ **Abound in this also** — The apostle Paul had, in connection with what God had done, given the congregation all that was necessary for motivation in making this collection for the poor brethren. He then brings forth this exordium: “See that you abound in this gracious work also.” The congregation had the tools, they had the earnestness and motivation; now they needed to “abound” in their contribution also. (He will appeal more for the need to be generous in ensuing paragraphs.)

This *gracious work* was indeed to be a work of *charity*. More than the Corinthian brethren could realize from their limited perspective, the contribution to the Jewish saints was going to accomplish a major positive step forward in the plan of God. Their giving would greatly assist the brethren in Judea, it would increase the faith and love of the Gentile Christians, and it would do a tremendous amount to pull the Jewish and Gentile elements of the church together as one working unit. Paul and the Holy Spirit are thus putting a lot of effort and a lot of scripture into “this gracious work.”

JAY WILSON

**THIS GRACIOUS
WORK WAS INDEED
TO BE A WORK OF
CHARITY.**