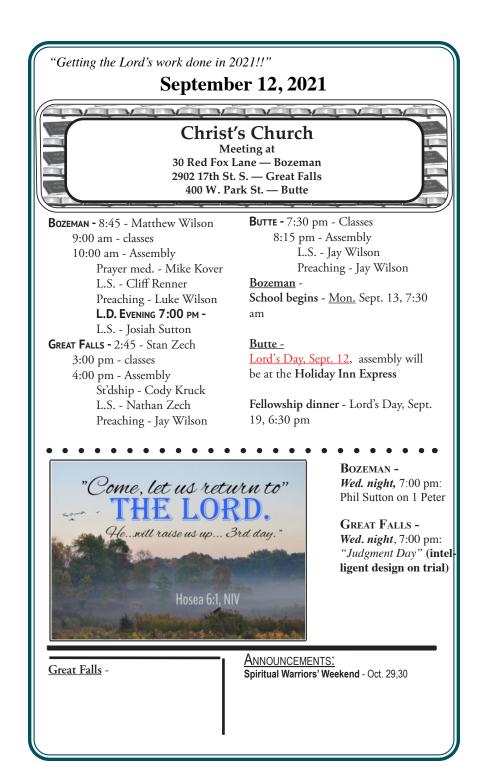
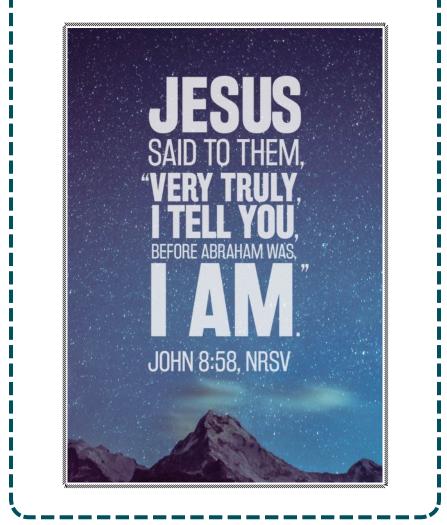
LET THE EVIL ONES BE AS A SNAIL WHICH MELTS AWAY AS IT GOES ALONG, LIKE THE MISCARRIAGES OF A WOMAN WHICH NEVER SEE THE SUN



Hailey Olson and Cole Hunsicker, of Boulder, MT visiting with folks at their wedding rehearsal Sugar Loaf Lodge near Anaconda, MT

The blind man answered and said, "And who is the Son of Man, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the One who is talking with you." John 9:36,37





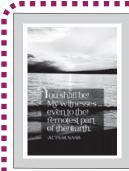
Question of the week:

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus' ministry would be in Galilee; in that same prophecy, what did he say about those who walk in darkness?

Last week's question: In 2 Corinthians 3 and 4, the apostle Paul makes some parallels between Moses' shining face and the new covenant revelation of Christ. What is it that saints see, by what is written in the new covenant, shining in the face of Christ? *Answer: The glory of God (2 Corinthians 4:6).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: FAMILY CAMP - ABOUT 550

Bible School – --Morning Assembly – 166 Evening Assembly – -- Wednesday Night (9/8) – 81 Butte Lord's Day – 11 GF Lord's Day – 14 (78 at camp),*Wed. - 54*



Acts Alive ...

Action in Asia

Having done his best in Ephesus to insure that the disciples of Christ had been properly immersed and had received the indwelling Holy Spirit, Paul then waded into the synagogue. "And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 19:8-10). Once again, it is of note that when Paul was preaching the

gospel of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God, that he was "rea-

soning and persuading" in his messages. Even the miracles that were done were part of the reasoning process; Jews and Gentiles alike had to have extraordinary evidence that Jesus was raised from the dead. The miracles that Paul performed in the name of Jesus were to establish that the name of Jesus Christ had power, and the conclusion that the "name" would have no power unless Jesus were raised from the dead.

To demonstrate that his eye-witness testimony that Jesus was raised from the dead, the apostle could perform the attesting signs, and have the testimony proclaimed compared with the Old Testament prophecies. As he explained to the Corinthian brethren, "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles" (II Corinthians 12:12).

Asia at that time designated a Roman province comprising what is now western Turkey, its capital being the burgeoning city of Ephesus. In just two years a city of some 200,000 persons and all the surrounding area "heard the word of the Lord"! Not only did they hear, but they responded in surging numbers.

- That Paul could heal sicknesses and cast out evil spirits with a handkerchief or an

apron from his body prompted some Jewish exorcists to try their hand using the name of "Jesus whom Paul preaches." The evil spirit responded, "Irecognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" (Acts 19:15). And the demon- possessed man just tore into them, so that the men fled naked and wounded. Somehow this became known throughout all Ephesus, and the name of Jesus was magnified.

"The word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."

"Many of those who had believed kept coming,

confessing and disclosing their [wicked] practices. And many of

those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing" (Acts 19:18-20).

- The number of conversions to Christianity was really eating into the number of people who purchased small silver images of Artemis (Diana). One of the seven wonders of the ancient world was the temple of Artemis at Ephesus, so that the craftsmen of the area depended on this trade to make a living. One silversmith named Demetrius started a disturbance through the trade unions that brought the whole city into such an uproar that "they rushed with one accord into the theater [which would seat about 19,000]" (Acts 19:29). As events transpired, "they shouted for about two hours, 'Great is Artemis of the Ephesians' " (Acts 19:34). Finally, the assembly was dismissed by the town clerk, who warned them that they were in danger from the Roman authorities, since there was no real cause for the riot.

The exciting words of the first century beckon us onward: "The word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing." Let us do our part to ensure that the word of the Lord will not return to Him empty, but will succeed in the matter for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:11)!

JAY WILSON