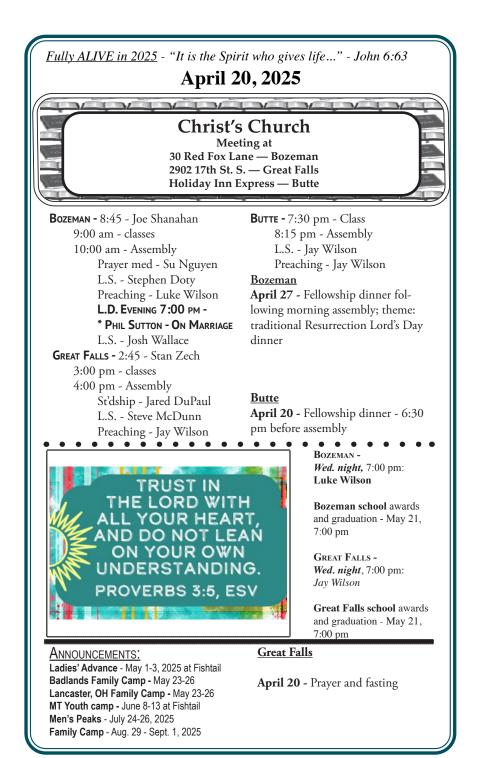
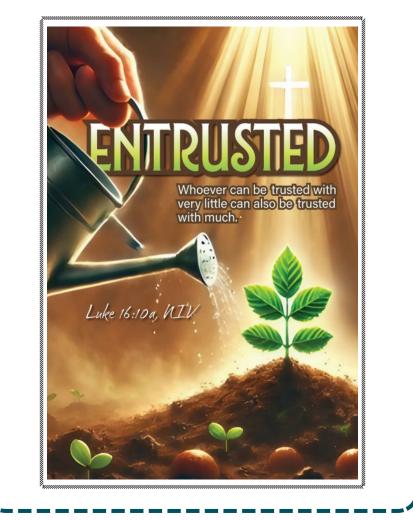
"I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted And justice for the poor. Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name; The upright will dwell in Your presence." -- Psalm 18:10,11



Saints hanging around and visiting following lesson Wednesday evening assembly Christ's Church in Great Falls, MT

The apostle Paul before the Roman Governor Felix: "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked." *Acts* 24:14,15





## Quotation of the week:

"God the Creator of all things, being eternal, infinite, and incomprehensible and having in himself all power, wisdom, goodness, justice, and truth; being always, from eternity and to eternity, the same in grace, majesty, and blessedness—the most glorious, most holy, most lovely, and most adorable of all beings, it was highly befitting his divine nature, when granting a religion to his fallen creature man, that he should demand of him a return to perfection. 'Be you, therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' Matt. v 48." -- Walter Scott, *The Evangelist*, Jan. 1, 1840 *Perfection No.1* 

# ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 65	Wednesday Night (4/16) — 62
Morning Assembly — 109	Butte Lord's Day — 8 (ph: 4)
Evening Assembly – 57	GF Lord's Day – 77,95 Wed 63



#### Reasonings from Revelation

### The First "Woe"

The first four trumpets, somewhat in parallel with the four horsemen, dealt with forces on the earth. In the case of the trumpets, the bases for agriculture and commerce were pictured as disrupted in a major way: a third of the green grass and trees were destroyed, a third of the salt waters were turned to blood and a third of the ships were destroyed, a third of the fresh waters were made bitter and useless, and a third of the heavenly bodies were taken out of the way. The goal of such actions on God's part as revealed in the vision is to get men to turn from their wicked ways and seek Him.

 The eagle flies – Following the blast of the fourth trumpet, the apostle John sees something else enter the vision. "And I looked,"

he comments, "and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound' " (Revelation 8:13). This is the introduction of the term "those who dwell on the earth," a reference to non-Christians. These woes are coming upon the lost and deluded in an effort to reach them with the gospel when they recognize that their earthly focus has been total futility.

• The fifth angel sounds – The audience is now prepared for "the first woe." "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him" (Revelation 9:1). This "bottomless pit" is the same as "the abyss," and is the "Tartarus" (sometimes wrongly translated "hell") of 2 Peter 2:4. The devil and his angels were cast into Tartarus in connection with Jesus' resurrection, and Satan is the "star" which had "fallen to the earth" in

the vision. "The angel of the abyss," is a later description of Satan in this vision, and "his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon" (Revelation 9:11). Both "Abaddon" and "Apollyon" mean "the destroyer."

• The "bottomless pit" opened – The devil is totally destructive, even unreasonably so, and hence God can use that destructive force any time he chooses to do so; He unleashes, Satan will destroy. In this vision, Satan is given the

key to the bottomless pit, to Tartarus, where all the disobedient angels had been cast. "And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit" (Revelation 9:2). All the demonic forces, full of hatred of the human race, and willing to incite rebellion against God, were released in what looked like a massive dumpster fire to wreak havoc among the sons of men.

 The "locusts" – The snarling demons released from Tartarus are depicted as locusts in this vision. "And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as scorpions of the earth have power" (Revelation 9:3). All the evil and deception of the dark realm is thus turned loose to torment the lost, with guilty consciences and lustful desires driving them deeper into ruin and heartache, exacerbated by these demonic forces. "And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads" (Revelation 9:4).

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience," is the apostle Paul's inspired observation (Ephesians 2:1,2). This is the book of Revelation's description: "And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man" (Revelation 9:5). No physical death, just merciless torment!

JAY WILSON

# No physical death; just merciless torment!