

Dear Brethren,

It is hard to believe another month has already passed...the time just seems to fly by! I hope you all are doing well!

The beginning of July was quite busy. We had the opportunity to visit with some friends and family back east at the end of June, and made the long trek home from Alabama just after the 4th of July. We had a good time, but that drive is tiring! We always look forward to this week of visiting, as we take our kids to summer camp run by Christians in North Alabama. This has been a great way for our kids (who are quite isolated) to be able to stay in good contact with their friends. And it is good for us as their parents too!

I have been continuing a series on the "I AM" statements of Jesus in a sermon series on Sunday mornings. My brother, Justin, has been doing a series on Peter on his turns to preach. Both have been good lessons for our group, I believe. In our Sunday morning Bible study, I have begun a new class entitled *Walking Worthy of Your Calling*. The gist of this study is to take a deeper look at what a Christian is supposed to look like. How should one act, and how should one not act? The first few lessons will be focused on some introductory/foundational material, and then I plan to get into more depth on specific practices. I am looking forward to this study a great deal!

Justin continues a study on the book of Philippians on Wednesday evenings. Philippians is one of my favorite books to study, and to preach and teach from. I am amazed at how much more I have gained by doing the study with the brethren here. We always have such good discussions, and it is helpful to have others who point out things that I have missed in previous trips through the letter. This is why studying together is of such importance among brethren...we help one another to come to a more full understanding of God's word and will for us.

We are continuing a couple of other regular studies. On Thursday evenings we are studying 1-3 John. We just finished up 1st John, and began 2nd John last week. On Friday mornings, we are studying through the book of Romans. This has been a more "overview" type study, as we will generally read a full chapter and then discuss it briefly for the main points. As most of you know, that can be a challenge when looking at the book of Romans! However, we believe (and has been confirmed through our studies) this way of approaching a book in the scriptures is much easier for someone who comes to the study only occasionally to participate and not feel lost. We can take a few minutes to touch on the main themes in the previous chapters, and then move forward into the reading for the day.

I have mentioned my friend, Jim Leach, several times over the months. I continue to hope for his willingness to open his heart to the true gospel. However, over the last few weeks, he has found himself (some of his own making, and some beyond his control) facing some serious problems. I have had my time consumed (perhaps more than I should allow) trying to help him through his difficulties. He has shown a desire to give up some of the sinful practices in his life, and has spent more time studying scripture, both with me and on his own. I am hopeful this will be a step in the right direction. Only time will tell if he has become serious, or if he will turn back to his old ways when his difficulties are past. I ask for your prayers on his behalf, that he might submit

his heart to the Lord, and on my behalf that I might have wisdom in dealing with the difficult situation.

Lord willing, we will be taking a few more days next week to drive to Albuquerque, NM, to visit with Cynthia's parents. They moved there from Alabama earlier this year for her dad, Johnny Stringer, to preach with the congregation there. We have never had the opportunity to visit any of the South Western states, so we are looking forward to a few days seeing new country. I have been invited to preach there during one of the services that we will be there, so I am looking forward to getting to study with the brethren there. It is always exciting for us to meet new brethren, in new places! Please remember us in your prayers as we are traveling.

We are enjoying a relatively mild summer here. We have had more rain this spring and summer than anyone around here can remember for a long time. That has helped to stave off the wildfires better than any year since we have moved here. We still have some, but the smoke has not been bad at all this summer, for which we are thankful.

One final note before I close. I have mentioned a few times that I had lost support, and was trying to replace it. I am thankful to report that I have been able to replace what I lost, and we are set for time being. We are so thankful for the generosity that you, and others like you have shown us to make sure we are cared for as we do the work here in Bozeman. Your fellowship in the gospel not only supplies what we need financially, but provides wonderful encouragement that keeps us going. We cannot express how much you are appreciated.

May God bless you all as you strive to serve Him.