

# THE BOZEMAN REPORT

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*Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)*

Greetings once again from the fully winter entrenched city of Bozeman! While we have had some cold weather already throughout the fall, it appears that winter is officially here now. We'll be settling in for the long-haul now, as things may slow down a bit, especially with rising numbers of COVID in our area. We will continue to do a lot of our community style studies through Zoom. I had hoped we might be able to get back to on-location studies, but with increasing numbers that doesn't seem to be the best solution at this time.

We did take a short break after completing our study of the book of Revelation on Thursday evenings. Recently we started up another study on the book of Mark. Once again, Mike has been taking the lead on this study, and it has been a profitable study. We have had people join us in this study from all over the country, including Kentucky, Texas, and Vermont, besides those in our own area. We have already had a lot of great discussions as we've jumped into this gospel.

I am also continuing the study in the book of Acts on Friday mornings. This has also led to some very good discussions. The father of my friend, Jim Leach, whom I have written about quite a bit over the last year or so, has been involved in our studies for some time. His name is also Jim. We have been having an impact on him and his wife, as we study, and he is very aware of how what we are teaching has been different from what he has heard his

whole life. This has led to him wanting to do a dedicated study on the topic of baptism, which is scheduled for tomorrow morning. Dale Pennock, who is located in Vermont, will be joining me in this study, as that is where Jim and his wife Maryanne live. I am hopeful that they will listen to the truth of the gospel. It may very well be a watershed moment in our studies together. We have, of course, already discussed the necessity of baptism pretty extensively through the first 6 chapters of the book of Acts. But, this study will be much more in depth and will most likely bring them to a moment of acceptance or rejection. Please continue to pray for these folks as we study with them. I believe that if we can convince Jim and Maryanne of the truth of the scriptures on this topic, we will also convince my friend Jim, who has also thus far rejected the need for the one true baptism.

Not a lot has changed in our regular studies on Sunday and Wednesday. I am continuing to teach on the topic of "Walking Worthy of Our Salvation." Recently, we have been spending quite a bit of time talking about how we need to "redeem the time." We talked about our responsibilities as Christians as it pertains to various aspects of life. We discussed the need to spend time on Christian duties, family, work, entertainment and the like. We have many young people, and I do believe this study was particularly pertinent to them as they are making plans for their lives, and need some guidance and example as to how to make proper choices for things such as what profession to enter, and how to look at the need for education. While I am quite sure that some would disagree with the conclusions of our discussions, I was very pleased to see good direction given from among the adults for our young people to consider. The teaching and advice emphasized putting God and His instructions first, and allowing other things to be prioritized behind that.

We are now discussing the Christian's responsibility to the local church. What is it that God expects of us in the local church arrangement? Unfortunately, far too many Christians have lost sight of their own role in the church as expressed in scripture. Rather than looking for what the church can do for us, we need to be looking for how we can serve others. Putting others first is one of the keys to the local body functioning as God would

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### **Average Attendance:**

*Sunday: 22*

*Wednesday: 19*

have it do. We will most likely be continuing on with this part of our study for the next couple of weeks.

On Wednesday evenings, Justin is continuing a study of the book of Hosea. He is nearing the end of this book, and I believe he will be continuing with the Minor Prophets when finished. This has been a challenging study, and it has been beneficial to us all.

Impromptu studies continue to pop up pretty frequently. With the way that Bozeman and the surrounding area is growing, we have unending opportunities. Though we are starting to see some tighter restrictions once again because of the virus, we have had a lot of new opportunities when out and about in town. As I reported a few months ago, I have decided to start some part time work in Real Estate, and that has opened up several doors as well. I've had some very good discussions with other Realtors, clients, and co-workers. While I haven't seen definitive growth from this yet, we are getting a chance to sow the seed in a way that I didn't previously have available, meeting people I would not have had opportunity to meet.

A few months ago I was informed that I would be losing some support. The church here is now in a position to be able to cover what we will be losing, at least for the next year or so. We are hopeful that I can spend time building up the Realtor business enough to cover increases in living expenses (unfortunately cost of living continues to increase here), and to add some money to retirement accounts to prepare for the future, should it be needed. Lord willing, over time we may be able to replace more outside support with income from this work. I have no desire to do more than part time work in the business, as we have plenty of work to do in the kingdom here! However, I am happy to be able to "make tents" to continue doing the work that we believe to be so beneficial here in Montana.

As I close, I want to say, "Thank you!" As we continue to work in this difficult area for spreading the gospel, we are thankful for every single person that has prayed for us, encouraged us, or supported our efforts. As we approach the time of Thanksgiving later this month, we are particularly thoughtful of the thanksgiving we have to offer for our friends, brethren, and family that hold up our hands in this effort. We're especially thankful for those who have been able to come out and visit, and see the good things that are happening here.

Please continue to pray for our efforts here! I hope we have opportunity to see some of you all this winter as we hope to make a trip back east to visit with family. We continue to pray for you all as well!