

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

June 10, 2018

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Enough of This Foolishness!* (Titus 3:3-5)

Announcements:

Our spring picnic is today! As you pull out of the church parking lot, turn right on Sauk Trail, drive east 3.5 miles to Burnham Avenue. Turn right and drive south .7 miles to Plum Creek Forest Preserve. The entrance is on your left.

Next Sunday Pastor will be at the 50th BBF conference in Tipp City, Ohio. Steve will fill in, then Paul on the 24th.

Saturday, June 23 is our workday. Mark your calendar!

Midweek Bible Study: Wednesday night at 7 with Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger. Call him to confirm: 773-320-2139

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
Titus 3:1,2 *Mind Your Magistrates!*

“Principalities” (3:1) are the “principal men” of a city (Acts 25:10,11). Paul was willing to be subject to them even to death, because he understood the power of government is ordained of God, that “there is no power but of God” (Rom.13:1). Who’s to say husbands have power over wives? Only God. There is no power but what God gives.

So to resist the government is to resist the power of God, and resisting brings “damnation” (Rom.13:2), or judgment from the government—up to and including the death penalty (Gen.9:6). So we should be “afraid” of the government’s “ministers” (Rom.13:3,4), i.e., police officers, for they don’t bear a lethal weapon “in vain.”

God has always wanted His people to obey the government in every dispensation, and not be hasty to go live someplace else (Eccl.8:2,3). His people were always told not to stand up to the government (8:3,4), and if we don’t, that we’ll feel no evil thing from them (v.5 cf. Rom.13:3).

We are free citizens of the United States, but “as free” citizens of heaven (I Peter 2:13-16), Peter says we have to obey the government to be “servants of God.” That is, we shouldn’t look at it as serving the government, but as serving God who gave the government its power.

Someday our government might be conquered by another, but even then God’s people are told to obey the *new* government, just as God’s people in Israel were told to do when they were conquered (Jer.27:17).

When Paul says to obey “magistrates” (Tit.3:1), don’t forget some magistrates wrongfully beat and imprisoned him (Acts 16:19-24). Paul took that joyfully (v.25), and so should we.

If you don’t obey the government, you can’t be “ready to every good work” (Tit.3:1). We’re not saved *by* good works (Eph.2:8,9), but “unto” good works (v.10). But if

you break the law and they put you in prison, you can't be ready to do a lot of good works that can only be done as a free man.

When Paul says to "speak evil of no man" (Tit.3:2) it looks like he's changing the subject, but he's talking about not speaking evil *of dignities in government* (II Pet.2:10-12). That phrase "speak evil" means saying things like what we read in Psalm 41:5. Also, if you *lie* about leaders in government you are speaking evil of them (cf.Ps.109:2,20). It is also speaking evil of them to call them evil-doers (I Pe.3:16). It's one thing to disagree with one of a government policy, it's another to say they are evil to have passed it into law.

"What if the government *is* plotting to do us evil"? Even then, it is not our place to call our leaders evil (Job 34:18). Paul knew that and lived by it. Everything he said about his ruler was true, but he admitted that he had spoken "evil" of him in saying it (Acts 23:1-5).

There's a reason the Greek word for "speak evil" in Titus 3:2 is *blasphemo*. Since God has ordained government, it is blasphemy to speak against it. It is what they charged Naboth with (IKi.21:13). Now it was true he refused to sell the king his vineyard, but it wasn't blasphemy for him, for the Law of Moses forbade it. So to obey the king he would have had to disobey God—and that is the exception to the rule (Dan.3:16).

Outside of that, not even the Jews going into the Tribulation to whom Peter wrote were to speak evil of the government, as Peter told them (II Pe.2:10-12). Some will, but Peter says that they "understand not" that they shouldn't resist the government even if the Antichrist is on the throne, which he will be in the Tribulation.

When Paul says we shouldn't be "brawlers" (3:2), in the context this means we shouldn't be brawling over politics, and to "brawl" just means to quarrel noisily!

And we're supposed to be "gentle" (3:2), a trait that made even a warrior like David great (IISam.22:36). Has it made

you great, or are you railing against the government? "Meekness" means *not easily provoked when attacked* (Num.12). If you think the government is attacking us, are you reacting meekly? If not, why not start today!

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

June 10, 2018

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

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