

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

December 2, 2018

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:28-39

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Can a Believer Lose His Salvation?*
(II Corinthians 6:1; Romans 8:13; Galatians 6:8)

Announcements:

It's going to be a girl! On Thanksgiving Day, the turkey legs at Jeremy & Sarah's house were wearing pink booties!
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Danielle Marcukaitis will have surgery December 19th.

Next Sunday we will examine some more verses that seem to say that believers are not eternally secure in Christ.

Paul Balbach will fill in for Dave Stewart next Sunday.

Midweek Bible study: Postponed while Steve is away.

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

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

Romans 9:20-24 *Who Are You To Talk Back To God?*

When I was a Calvinist, I taught from Romans 9:20 that God created unbelievers to be damned, and they couldn't give God any backtalk about it! But Paul is actually talking about *Israel*. God predicted that Israel would reject and kill the Lord, but then Paul revealed how God *used* the cross to save us. The Jews were arguing that since they did God's will in providing us a Savior, and they couldn't resist His will (v.19) God couldn't "find fault" with them. And that Paul was saying that *they* couldn't talk back to God about it.

That sounds right, but did you notice Paul said "the thing formed" couldn't talk back to God about how it was formed? God formed *Adam* (Gen.2:7), and he couldn't talk back to God about it, or question how he was formed. But God didn't make him unable to resist His will, He made him with the ability to choose to resist God or not. And that's the same way He made Israel, whom He also "formed" (Isa.43:1) when He gave Abraham a miraculous child in his old age. So they couldn't say that God *made them* crucify the Lord.

And you know that's what Paul was saying here because he was quoting Isaiah 29:16, a passage about how the Lord would reject Christ (v.13 cf. Mt.15:7,8). In quoting that passage, Paul is reminding the Jews that the reason they crucified the Lord was because they removed their hearts from Him. The "marvelous work" that God did among them came when He was able to make Israel provide the world a Savior in spite of rejecting and killing the Lord. But for them to say that God *made them* crucify the Lord was looking at things "upside down" (Isa.29:16).

You know Paul was thinking of that passage in Isaiah because it mentions a potter, something Paul also goes on to mention (Rom.9:21). Calvinism holds that this means God can make a man to be damned, but *Israel* was the clay in her Potter's hand (Isa.64:8-10; Jer. 18:5,6). The Jews were say-ing their Potter "marred" them (Jer.18:4), but we've already seen that was upside down thinking!

The truth was, after they marred themselves, God made them into another vessel (18:4), something he could use just as well. God's original plan for the clay of Israel was to use them to recognize the Lord on Palm Sunday (Mt.21:9) as He predicted they would (Ps.118:26), and then execute Him in faith, not crucify Him in unbelief (Ps.118:27). That would have made them a "vessel unto honour" (Rom.9:21), *the honor of providing us a Savior.*

The "wrath" and "power" that God was willing to make known (Rom.9:22) is the wrath He poured out on our sins when He poured it out on Christ, something He did to make *the power of the gospel* known (Rom.1:16-18). God was "willing" (Rom.9:22) to make that wrath known by pouring down fire from heaven on Christ after the Jews bound Him to the horns of the altar, to show He accepted their sacrifice, the way He always showed it (cf.Lev.9:22-24; IIChron.7:1).

But when they refused to reveal God's wrath on our sins that way, God had to "endure" them "with much longsuffering" (Rom.9:22). And the Jews couldn't complain about that, because they didn't complain when God did that to Pharaoh (Rom.9:17). They didn't complain when God endured Pharaoh because it benefitted them when God made His power known, *and the Gentiles were scared of them by the time they got to the Promised land* (ISam.4:7,8). But that means they couldn't complain when God endured *them* to make *the power of the gospel* known, for that benefitted them too, since the gospel saves both Jews and Gentiles!

God *also* endured what the Jews did to His Son with much longsuffering *to make known the riches of His glory* (Rom.9:23) on the saints in the Body of Christ in the dispensation of grace (Eph.1:17,23). *We're* the "vessels of mercy" that He "afore prepared unto glory" (Rom.9:23 cf. ICor.2:6,7), something Paul makes crystal clear in Romans 9:24.

But as you can see, none of this has anything to do with God choosing some people to be damned and God telling them not to give Him any backtalk lip about it. It's about how God used Israel to provide us a Savior *despite* their refusal to do it in a way that would have honored them.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

December 2, 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.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

Faith Bible Church

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