

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

December 30, 2018

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 4:3-11

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *What Are The Mysteries We're To Be Stewards Of*
(I Corinthians 4:1)

Announcements:

Jim Penney went to be with the Lord on December 23, and Pastor Kurth officiated at the funeral on Friday.

Offering for Dave Stewart: If you can help, see Pastor.

Pastor Kurth thanks you for your cards and gifts! :o)

Read Your Bible Through In a Year plans are available. Pick up a copy today and start the year off right on Tuesday!

Steve Schwieger will fill in for Dave Stewart next Sunday.

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

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
ICor.4:1 *What Are The Mysteries We're To Be Stewards Of*

Most Christians understand that *all* Christians have a responsibility to be "ministers of Christ" (4:1), not just apostles like Paul and pastors. But if that's the case, then it must *also* be true that we are all "stewards of the mysteries of God" (4:1).

A steward is a servant who dispenses his master's food to the other servants (Luke 12:42). A mystery (4:1) is something God kept secret from people in time past (cf. Col. 1:26).

The Lord told some "mysteries of the kingdom" (Mt. 13:11), i.e., the kingdom of heaven on earth. The kingdom *itself* was not a secret in time past (Dan. 2:44), but there things *about* the kingdom that God kept secret that the Lord revealed. But we know that those aren't the mysteries that *we're* to be stewards of, for that kingdom on earth is Israel's hope. God plans to rapture *us* to heaven (I Thes. 4:13-18), and Paul is the only one in the Bible who talks about going to heaven. That's how we know we're to be stewards *of the mysteries revealed to him*.

Most grace pastors agree that there are seven Pauline mysteries. The first is "the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19). "Gospel" means *good news* (Lu. 4:18 cf. Isa. 61:1). God's good news has always been that men can be saved from their sins and from eternal punishment in the lake of fire. But there's always been something *about* the gospel that was a mystery, something hidden in time past.

And that is: how a righteous God could forgive *unrighteous* sinners. When Matthew quoted Zechariah 9:9, he omitted the part that says "He is just, and having salvation" (Mt. 21:4,5) because it wasn't known *how* God justly justify sinners. He told Israel's judges to *condemn* the unrighteous (De. 25:1) but He Himself justified an adulterous murderer named David. Is God one of those "do as I say, not as I do" types?

That's what men thought about Him for the first 4,000 years of human history. Then Paul revealed that Christ *paid* for the sins of the past like David's, and so could be a *just* justifier of sinners (Rom.3:24-26). Paul revealed how God made Christ "to be sin for us" (II Cor.5:21), made *Him* wicked *and then condemned the wicked*, so we could be righteous.

But God waited 4,000 years to reveal this through Paul. In time past, He *claimed* to be a justifier (Isa.45:21), and vowed to reveal His righteousness (Isa.56:1), but He didn't clear His name in the eyes of men until He revealed "the mystery of the gospel" to Paul.

We are also to be stewards of *the mystery of the church* (Eph. 5:32. Now the idea of having a church was no mystery (Acts 7:37,38). The word *church* just means a called out assembly (ICor.1:2), and God called Israel out of Egypt. So if the church Paul has in mind was a mystery, he must have had a different church in mind—and he did! He was thinking of "the church, *which is His body*" (Eph.1:22,23). There is no mention of the Body of Christ outside of Paul's epistles!

There were things *about* the Body that don't *sound* like a mystery. It is made up of Jews and Gentiles (ICor.12:13), as God wanted the Jewish church to be (Isa.56:3-7), and it was to some extent. But the Jews didn't like that idea and so the money changers took advantage of them (Mark 11:15-17). You'd think they'd *welcome* Gentiles, since they won't be equal with Jews in the kingdom (Isa.14:1,2; 60:10; 61:5). So you'd think they'd want more Gentiles waiting on them hand and foot, but they didn't seem to want to share God.

I say all that to point out that Gentiles are *not* subservient to Jews in the Body, they are "fellowheirs" with them (Eph.3:6). That word *fellow* means *equal* (Heb.1:8-10). The Jews were "heirs of salvation" (Heb.1:14), and in the Body of Christ *so are Gentiles* (Tit.3:7), *equal* heirs. The reason Paul has to say that God is "rich" unto "all" who call upon Him, Jews or Gentiles (Rom.10:12), because He used

to be *a whole lot richer* to Jews! Jews will reign over Gentiles in the kingdom (Rev.5:9,10), but in the Body of Christ, Jews and Gentiles will reign together over the angels (ICor.6:3).

This mystery of the church is why Paul was made a minister (Eph.3:7-9). God expected him to be a steward of that mystery, and you and I by extension.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

December 30, 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

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