

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

January 6, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *What Are The Mysteries We're To Be Stewards Of?* Part 3 (I Corinthians 4:1)

Blest Be The Tie

Announcements:

Read Your Bible Through In a Year plans are available. Pick up your copy today! With a little catching up, you can read the entire Word of God in 2019!

Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach will fill in for Dave Stewart next Sunday in Adult Sunday School.

Midweek Bible Study will not meet this Wednesday, but will resume next week.

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

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

ICo.4:1 *What Are The Mysteries We're To Be Stewards Of?*

The Corinthians had been dissing Paul (II Cor. 10:10), so he told them he didn't care what they called him, as long as they called him a steward of the mysteries of God. And that's what *you* should say when someone disses you as well!

The "mystery of godliness" (ITim. 3:16) is not about Christ when He was here on earth, though He was "God...manifest in the flesh." The word *godly* means *God-like*, and Christ wasn't *like* God, He *was* God. *We're* to be like God. This verse is about *the Body of Christ*, not the body of Christ when He was here on earth! That's the context (I Tim. 3:15). In addition, Verse 16 is about *the mystery* of godliness, and a mystery is something that God kept secret in the past (Eph. 3:2-5). It was no mystery that God would be manifest in Christ's physical body (Isa. 7:14; Mt. 1:22,23). But it *is* a mystery that God would be manifest in *our* flesh when we are troubled and not distressed (II Cor. 4:8-11). That's how the Lord manifested God in His flesh, and it is the best way you can be a steward of this aspect of the mystery of godliness—by *living* it, not just teaching it.

God wasn't "justified in the Spirit" (3:16) when the Lord was baptized, as some say (Mt. 3:16), He was *identified by* the Spirit (Jo. 1:33,34). God was justified by the Spirit *in us* when Paul revealed God was "just, and the Justifier" of them which believe (Rom. 3:26), and when we live for Him under grace with no threat of chastening. God looked *unjustified* in doing that, but when we walk in the Spirit it justifies God.

I know the Lord was "seen of angels" (3:16 cf. Mt. 4:11; Lu. 22:43) *but that was no mystery either* (Ps. 91:11). But it *was* a mystery that the Body of Christ would even *exist*, let alone be seen of anyone. Under the Law, angels were *teachers* (Heb. 2:2), now they are students—*our* students (Eph. 3:10). Paul knew that, so he could assure the Galatians that no *unfallen* angel would teach them a gospel that differed from his (Gal. 1:8). And angels aren't just watching us *teach* grace to one another, they are watching

us *live* grace (ICor.4:9-13). They watched the Lord live grace when He was here, but now that He's gone, they're watching us manifest God in *our* flesh that way. It's the best way you can be a steward of this aspect of the mystery of godliness!

Next, God was "preached unto the Gentiles" in the mystery of godliness (3:16). That's not something that was true of God when He was manifest in the Lord's flesh, for He was "a minister of the circumcision" then (Rom.15:8). One of the ways you can be a steward of this part of the mystery of godliness is to remind people that even Israel is considered a Gentile nation now that Israel has lost her favored nation status with God.

Next Paul says God was "believed on in the world" (3:16), and that wasn't true of God when He was manifest in the flesh of the Lord, for "the world knew Him not" (John 1:10). But God *had been* believed on in the *world in the Body of Christ* (Rom.16:25,26; Col.1:5,6). You can be a good steward of this part of the mystery of godliness by supporting grace foreign missions so the *rest* of the world can believe on Him!

It's true that God was "received up into glory" when He was manifest in the Lord's flesh (Mark 16:19), but this was no mystery either (Ps.68:18 cf. Eph.4:7,8). It was also no mystery that He would sit at God's right hand when He got there (Ps.110:1 cf. Heb.10:12,13). But was it a mystery that God will be received up into glory when we are raptured? Paul says the rapture is a "mystery" (ICor.15:51), so God being received up into glory in the mystery of godliness must be talking about us!

I know Paul uses the past tense ("received") in talking about this, and the rapture hasn't happened yet. But Paul was *a prophet* (ICor.13:9, and the prophets often spoke of future events using the past tense (Isa.53:5-12) for they see it in their mind *so clearly* they can describe it as something that has already happened (Rom.4:17).

Finally, some say we rob the doctrine of the deity of Christ of a text with this position, but plenty of verses teach that (Isa.9:6; John 1:1,14; Col.2:9). We'd be doing that doctrine a disservice for teaching it from a text that doesn't teach it.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

January 6, 2019

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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