

## Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

January 13, 2019

### Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

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Scripture Reading: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

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

### Announcements:

**February 10** we will have a special luncheon observing Pastor's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our church. See Lori for details!

**Do you need a housekeeper?** A Hispanic Christian woman, 60 years of age, is looking for a position as a live-in housekeeper. If you are interested, call Maria: 773 969 3849

**Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger** will fill in for Dave Stewart next Sunday in Adult Sunday School.

**Midweek Bible Study:** this Wednesday at 7 with Steve.

**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 The Stewards Of?*

God revealed one *big* mystery to Paul, the dispensation of grace (Eph.3:1-3). He is the primary steward of all the information we need to know about the age in which we live. But he mentions seven sub-mysteries of which we are the stewards now that he is gone (ICor.4:1). We've seen 3 of them, and the next concerns Israel's blindness (Rom.11:25).

During the dispensation of grace, Israel is spiritually blind. It started when the Lord was here (Mt.13:15), rendering them unable to find the "door" (cf.Gen.19:11) of the Lord (Jo.10:9). Some Jews got saved (Ro.11:7) but "the rest were blinded."

Paul says this was a mystery (Ro.11:25), something God kept secret from people in the past (cf.Ro.16:25,26). But how can it be a mystery if the Lord warned of it (De.28:15,28)? By the way, notice that God vowed to blind them *in response to their disobedience*. When they did disobey, God sent Isaiah to blind them (Isa.6:8-10) by making their ears heavy with teaching and their hearts fat with truth. But how can Israel's blindness be a mystery if the Lord *quoted* Isaiah 6 in saying they were blind?

Well, the mystery isn't that Israel would be blinded, it was *why*. Deuteronomy 28 said they'd be blinded to *punish* them. That was God's purpose in blinding them according to *prophecy*. But God had a *secret* purpose in blinding them, one that Paul revealed when *he* quoted Isaiah 6 (Acts 28:25-28). Paul says God blinded Israel *so salvation could go to the Gentiles* (Rom.11:17-11).

But don't feel sorry for the Jews, this worked out to their benefit. Prophecy said God blinded them to *judge* them, Paul says it was so they could get "mercy" from us (Rom.11:30,31). Remember, in time past, Gentiles had to get mercy from Jews *through the Law*. Today Jews must get it from Gentiles *through grace*. But the idea of Jews

getting mercy from Gentiles by grace through faith apart from the Law while Israel is blinded is a mystery you won't find before Paul.

And there's *another* mystery connected to Israel's blindness. When Isaiah asked "how long" it would last, God told him it would be "until" Israel was completely judged (Isa.6:10,11). But Paul says it will be "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom.11:25). That's something that is best defined by comparing the fulness of the Jews.

The fulness of the Jews is the *opposite* of their falling (Rom.11:12), and the opposite of falling in the Bible is *rising* (Ps.20:8). Israel will rise *in her kingdom* (Isa.60:1-3). That's when she'll *really* enrich the world. That will be her fulness.

So if Israel getting the kingdom of heaven on earth is her fulness, then *our* fulness must come when we get our kingdom in heaven at the rapture (ICor.15:50,51). And that's how long Israel's blindness will last *according to the mystery*.

Blind people can do some amazing things, and can hold jobs you wouldn't think they could hold. But they couldn't be priests in Israel (Lev.21:16-21). And God always intended for *the entire nation of Israel* to be "a kingdom of priests" (Ex.19:6). But how can they be if they are spiritually blind?

The answer is, they can't—until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

And the way to be a wise and faithful steward of this mystery is to tell people something that most won't want to hear. Most believe God disowned Israel at the Cross and will never have anything to do with them again. But Paul insists that their blindness is *temporary*, not permanent, and that they will be God's people again after the Rapture.

God promised Israel a kingdom, and if they don't get it, that makes Him a liar. So in being a good steward of this mystery, *you are defending the integrity of God*. Many

Christians are antisemitic because they think *God* is. Also, being a steward of this mystery will prevent some young Christian from thinking, "If God reneged on His promise of a kingdom to Israel, how do I know He'll keep His promise of a kingdom to me?"

# Faith Bible Church

[www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com](http://www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com)

January 13, 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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