

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

March 17, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:22-34

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Questions About Repentance* (I Samuel 15:29)

Announcements:

Dave Stewart will be our speaker next Sunday while Pastor Kurth speaks at a Bible conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Baby shower for Sarah Bilka *this afternoon after church!*

Free books! *Berean Bible Society* is giving away free copies of Pastor Stam's book *The Author's Choice*. Take some!

October 13 our speaker will be BBS president Pastor Kevin Sadler while Pastor is speaking at a conference in England.

Midweek Bible Study: Wednesday at 7 but call Steve first

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

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
Acts 14:21,22 *Why Does Paul Talk About The Kingdom?*

Paul is the only Bible writer that talks about going to heaven. All others talk about living in the kingdom of heaven on earth. So why does Paul talk about the kingdom sometimes, as he does in Acts 14:22?

Well, he can't be talking about the kingdom Daniel said that Christ would set up on earth after conquering the kingdoms of men (Dan.2:44). We know that *that* kingdom will be a literal earthly kingdom because the kingdoms of men that it will replace were literal earthly kingdoms. We also know it will have a literal king just like those kingdoms (Jer.23:5). And *this is the only kingdom the Bible mentions God setting up* until you get to Paul. So it's easy to think that that's the kingdom he says we will enter (Acts 14:22).

But words can have different meanings depending on the context. We know that the word "heaven" can have 3 meanings because the Bible speaks of a heaven the birds fly in (Gen.1:20), and one the stars move around in (Isa.13:10) and the third heaven of paradise where God lives (II Cor.12:2-4).

If you fall into the trap of thinking that a word must mean the same thing every time it appears in the Bible, you're going to think that the "tribulation" we must go through to enter the kingdom is the *seven year* Tribulation that will follow the Rapture. But Paul wrote two epistles to prove that's *not* the tribulation we must go through (I Thes.1:10;5:9; II Thes.2:1-6). "Tribulation" just means *trouble* (II Cor.1:3, 4), and we are "appointed" to go through trouble in life (I Thes.3:3,4) because Satan hates us.

But if the word "tribulation" can have more than one meaning in Acts 14:22 then so can "kingdom." Paul is talking about entering the kingdom of heaven *in heaven*, the one we'll enter after the Rapture (I Cor.15:50-52).

But when Paul mentions preaching “the kingdom of God” in Acts 19:8, he’s talking about *how to enter* the kingdom, *how to get saved*. Isn’t that what you’d preach in a synagogue filled with unsaved Jews? He did it again in Acts 28:17-23.

But we know that the phrase “kingdom of God” sometimes involved *more* than just the gospel, for Paul preached the kingdom of God “two years” in Ephesus (Acts 19:1,10;20:25) and Rome (Acts 28:30,31). As you read Ephesians, does it *sound* like all he preached to them was the gospel?

Ephesians has some high and lofty truths that they would not have been ready to receive if Paul had not first grounded them *in the foundational truths of Romans*. That’s how we know preaching the kingdom of God for two years meant he taught them those foundational truths. He said so when he said he preached “all the counsel of God” to them (Acts 20:27). Romans was all the counsel of God Paul had at that time since He revealed truth to him gradually (II Cor. 12:1)>

One of those foundational truths is that “the kingdom of God is not meat and drink” (Rom. 14:15-17). It is “righteousness” that you can eat what you want under grace (14:1-7), but if you eat what’s *right* before a weaker brother you’ll “destroy” his “peace” and “joy,” and that’s not walking “charitably.” Until you learn to treat others graciously you aren’t ready to receive the truth about ruling angels (Eph. 1:19-23).

Paul uses the word “kingdom” *another* way when he says we’ve already been translated into it (Col. 1:12,13). That can’t be the kingdom of heaven *on earth*, for it hasn’t been established yet! It’s the *overall* kingdom of the saved of all ages, including the Jews who were “sanctified by faith” in Christ before Paul (Col. 1:12 cf. Acts 26:16-18). Paul says we’ve received an inheritance among them, *the inheritance of eternal life*. For Abraham to inherit the world (Rom. 4:13) he’d have to live forever. God promised that to Abraham and his seed, *and we are his seed in Christ*

(Gal. 3:29). That means we’re already part of the same household of God that they belong to (Eph. 2:19).

We were “translated” into it (Col. 1:13). “Translated” means to take someone from one place to another. Enoch was translated *from earth to Paradise* (Heb. 11:5 cf. Gen. 5:24), literally taken from one place to another, and we’ve been literally translated from the household of Adam into which we were born into the household of God. *Glory!*

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

March 17, 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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