

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

April 7, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading:

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: **Are the Letters to the Seven Churches
Written to Us? (Revelation 1:4)**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Announcements:tuu

New booklets! Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach has written two booklets that are now available: *Freedom From Depression God's Way* and *A Believer's Identity in Christ*. See him for prices, and pick up your copy today.

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

Midweek Bible Study: Postponed until next Wednesday.

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

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

Matthew 19:28 *Did the 12 Apostles Become Members of the Body of Christ?*

“The church, which is His Body” (Eph.1:22,23) began with Paul's conversion (ITim.1:16), while all the people saved *before* Paul were kingdom saints with an earthly hope. But some of the pioneers of the grace message believed that all the kingdom saints who were alive when the Body began automatically became members of it.

But if they did, then the epistles the 12 wrote are written to you. That means if you're not baptized, you're not saved (IPet.3:21). And you're *also* not saved unless you're doing the works James talked about (James 2:14-16). And you're *also* going to wonder why your prayers don't always heal people (James 5:14,15).

We know the 12 will sit on 12 thrones when the Lord sits on His throne (Mt.19:28), and that His throne will be here on earth (Jer.23:5). The earth is Israel's hope (Mt.5:5). But we'll be in heaven judging angels (ICor.6:3). Since the 12 can't be in two places, we know they weren't added to the Body.

The pioneers of our message thought the 12 joined the Body because in addition to the problem verses in their epistles, they also wrote about *multiplied grace* and *manifold grace* (IPet.1:2; 4:10). But it was the kind of grace that would help them enter the kingdom (Ipe.1:11), and it was “prophesied” grace (Ipe.1:10). The grace Paul wrote to *us* about was a “mystery” (Eph.3:1-5), the kind that helps us enter heaven.

IPeter 1:3,4 also puzzled our pioneers, for it sounds like Peter is saying his readers would *go* to heaven. But the Lord's parable explains how *He* would go to heaven *to get the kingdom for them* (Lu.19:11-17). How will He do that?

Well, in Revelation 5:1, John saw a vision of heaven in the future, with God holding *the deed to the earth*. Deeds in those days were *books* (Jer.32:9-12). Adam was once king of the earth, with “dominion” over the world (Gen.1:28). But when he sinned he lost his legal claim to the throne of the world to Satan, a claim that even the Lord acknowledged

(Luke 4:5,6). That's why John wept (Rev.5:2-4), thinking no one was worthy to take the deed away from him. You'd cry too if you thought the world would be forever in the devil's hands, specially if your hope was to live on the earth!

But the Lord paid for the right to reclaim the earth with His blood (Rev.5:5-9). When He died and rose again, God took the deed away from Satan. But the Lord still had to go get it, as the parable predicted, and as seen in Revelation 5:7.

It also puzzled our pioneers to hear Peter write of "the present truth" (II Pe.1:12). Grace believers know that the truth the Lord preached to the Jews on earth (Mt.15:24) is *past truth*, but the truth He preached through Paul is the present truth *for us*. So it's tempting to think Peter was talking about Paul's truth for us. But *the Jews* had new truth too! The 12 and the Lord were born under the law (Gal.4:4), but the truth of the kingdom was added to the law for them (Lu.16:16). *That's* the "present truth" Peter had in mind.

Our pioneers argued that the 12 became members of the Body when the dispensation changed with Paul, just like all the Jews before the law came to live under the law when the dispensation of law began. But those Jews didn't have to change their hope from earth to heaven to do that, as the 12 would have to become members of the Body of Christ!

Our pioneers also argued that *Barnabas* was saved under the kingdom program (Acts 4:34-37) in accord with the kingdom plan of salvation (Lu.18:18,22), but later helped Paul. But he didn't help Paul preach grace, *he helped him to be accepted among kingdom saints* (Acts 9:26,27). He did some of the speaking (Acts 14:12), but not of grace. He was like Apollos, who helped Paul by preaching what he knew about Christ from the Old Testament (Acts 18:24-28). That's how he watered Paul's seed (ICor.3:5,6).

Paul used the present tense to speak of Jews who were "of the circumcision" (Col.4:10,11 cf. Rom.2:28,29). There are no Jews in the Body (Gal.3:26-28) so we know they were leftover kingdom saints, "the Israel of God" (Gal.5:16), separate from the new creatures in the Body of Christ (v.15).

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

April 7, 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

Faith Bible Church

560 East Sauk Trail

Steger, Illinois 60475

708-758-7780

Pastor Ricky Kurth

414-719-0548 (cell)

Pastorkurth @msn.com