

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

April 21, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading:

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *How Do I Overcome Sin In My Life?*
(Ephesians 5:1-3)

Announcements:

A blessed Resurrection Day to all! “He is risen!” (Mt.28:6).

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger will be our speaker on May 5th, as Pastor Kurth speaks at a Bible conference at the *First Grace Gospel Church* in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Free books! *BBS* is giving away free copies of Pastor Stam’s book *The Author’s Choice*. Another box is now available!

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

Matthew 28:18-20 *Don’t We Have To Obey The Great Commission?*

Just before ascending into heaven, the Lord commissioned His 12 apostles to carry on in His absence in what has been called *The Great Commission*. But *Paul* is *our* apostle (Rom.11:13), so we don’t have to follow the commission the Lord gave the 12, who were *Israel’s* apostles. But no one is following it today anyway, *because no one can!*

First though, we see no one *should* follow it, for the Lord sent the 12 *to baptize* (Mt.28:19), but our apostle was *not* sent to baptize (ICor.1:17), and says to follow him (ICor.11:1).

The 12 were sent to teach the nations to observe all the Lord had taught them (Mt.28:20), *including to forgive if they wanted to be forgiven* (Mark 11:25,26). Christians today don’t send their missionaries to teach that to the nations, they send them to teach Colossians 3:13. The 12 were also told to observe animal sacrifices (Mt.8:5) and “all” the rest of the law (Mt.23:2,3). We should follow Paul instead (Rom. 6:15)! The 12 were also taught what to do when the antichrist appears (Mt.24:15,16), but we should teach the nations what Paul taught, that we’ll be raptured before he appears (II Thes. 2:6-8). The Tribulation is “Jacob’s trouble” (Jer.30:7), not ours! We don’t need to be here when the Lord weeds the unbelievers out of Israel before the kingdom (Zech.13:8,9).

Mark’s version of the Great Commission teaches water baptism for salvation (Mark 16:16), but we’re to teach the nations what Paul taught, that we’re saved by the washing of regeneration, *not the washing of water baptism* (Tit.3:5). His version also says miraculous signs will follow believers (Mark 16:17,18), *but they don’t today*. Because of all this, pastors prefer Matthew’s version of the Great Commission to Mark’s version, but they’re all versions of the same commission! You can’t choose one over another any more than you can choose Matthew’s version of the Lord’s resurrection over Mark’s version.

Luke’s version says the 12 had to begin reaching the nations *in Jerusalem* (Lu.24:47), and they understood they couldn’t

move on to the Gentiles until Jerusalem was “filled” with salvation (Mark 7:27). So they remained in Jerusalem, *even when the going got rough there* (Acts 8:1).

In John’s version the 12 are given the power to remit sins (John 20:21-23), verses Rome uses to say her priests have the power to remit sins in some supernatural way. Protestants don’t like this version because they don’t realize that the remission of sins is something the Lord was empowering the 12 to “preach” (Lu.24:47-49), not confer in some supernatural way as Rome claims. And it was preached *by preaching water baptism* (Mark 1:4; Acts 2:38).

The restriction to remain in Jerusalem until that city was saved (Acts 1:8) stopped the 12 dead in their tracks, and they never did get their gospel to every creature in all the world. The problem is, the prophets predicted the kingdom gospel *would* get to all the world (Ps.22:27; Isa.52:10). Did God not know Jerusalem would refuse to get saved? Of course He did! But He knew it would happen *after the age of grace ends*, after Jerusalem is redeemed (Isa.52:9) and the kingdom is established in Jerusalem (Ps.22:27,28).

But God didn’t wait for that to happen! When Jerusalem refused to be saved, God raised up Paul and gave him a new message that didn’t include baptism, the law, or supernatural signs. And you know it didn’t include waiting for Jerusalem to get saved, for Paul said that his gospel *did* reach “all nations” (Rom.16:25). The 12 were *sent* to all nations but couldn’t reach them because Jerusalem wouldn’t get saved, but Paul could because he didn’t have to wait for that! The 12 didn’t reach “all the world” for the same reason, but Paul did for the same reason (Col.1:5,6). The 12 were sent to “every creature” but only Paul could reach them (Col.1:23).

So what commission was Paul following? The same one we should if we want to follow him as he followed Christ, “to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery” (Eph.3:9). The mystery is “that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs” with the Jews, “and of the same body” (Eph.3:6). Gentiles were heirs under the kingdom gospel, but not “fellow” or *equal* heirs.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

April 21, 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.

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