

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

April 28, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Daniel 9:11-19

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurthii*

Message: *Should Christians Fast?* (Judges 20:26-28)

Announcements:

Pastor Don Webb went home to be with the Lord last Tuesday. Please keep his family and loved ones in prayer.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger will be our speaker next Sunday, as Pastor Kurth speaks at a conference in Ohio.

Spring picnic: Tentatively scheduled for June 9!

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.

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

When I was first saved, I read a book that said to overcome the temptation to steal, for example, you should carry a card that says "Thou shalt not steal." But that's part of *the law*, which Paul says was "not made for a righteous man" (ITim. 1:9). And if you're saved, *you're righteous* (Rom.5:19).

The law wasn't made for you, it was made for murderers of fathers and mothers, a combination of "thou shalt not kill" and "honour thy father and thy mother." Paul is telling us that *the 10 commandments* weren't made for righteous men to help them be good.

But they weren't made to help *unsaved* men be good either, they were made to help them be bad, to put their sin in motion (Rom.7:5). The perverse fallen nature we inherited from Adam loves to do what we are told not to do. So the law doesn't weaken sin, *it strengthens it* (ICor.15:56).

So now we have to ask why God would give unsaved men a law to strengthen their sin? Well, it was because "bad" sinners know they need a savior more than "good" sinners (Mt.21:31). So God gave them a law to make sin "exceeding sinful" (Rom.7:13), to teach us we need God to save us (Gal. 3:24). But after that "we are no longer under a schoolmaster."

How does the law make sin worse? *It gets you thinking about sin*. After that, the power of suggestion does the rest. So you should take *every thought* captive for the Lord (ICor.10:5) and think about good things instead (Phil.4:8). That will result in walking in the Spirit. And this helps eliminate sin (Gal.5:16). That's why Paul says you should not just stop stealing, *you should work* (Eph.4:28). And not just stop tearing others down, *but start building them up* (Eph.4:29). It's part of giving the devil no place in your life (Eph.4:27).

If you're thinking you'll need *incentive* not to sin, under the law God would punish you if you didn't! But that's the motivation of *fear*. Under grace the *love* of Christ constrains us to serve Him (II Cor. 5:14,15) out of gratitude for His blessings, the first of which is salvation by grace (Eph. 2:4,5). As it says, we were "dead in sins." Death means *separation* (Gen. 35:18) and unbelievers are separated from God's life (Eph. 4:18). But when you get saved, you are dead *to* sin (Rom. 6:11). So how should you live in response? "Reckon" it so! (6:11). God *sees* you as sinless so *live* sinlessly.

Another blessing is that you are "sanctified" (I Cor. 6:11), set apart unto God (Ex. 13:2 cf. 12). So you should *live* sanctified (I Thes. 4:4). And now that you're sanctified, you are "holy" (I Thes. 5:27), for that's the noun form of the verb *sanctify*. And if God *sees* you as holy, you should *live* "holily" (I Thes. 2:10). God also sees you as *righteous* (II Cor. 5:21), so you should *live* righteously (Tit. 2:12).

Titus 2:12 says you should live righteously in this *present* world, not just in the world to come in heaven. Christ *died* to save you from sin in this world (Gal. 1:3,4; Tit. 2:14), not just in the next. If that doesn't motivate you not to grieve His Spirit by sinning (Eph. 4:30), I don't know what will.

This is the perfect message for this Easter Sunday. Christ died on Passover for us (I Cor. 5:7). The Jews were to eliminate leaven from their lives in response to the Passover lamb's death (Ex. 12:15). Leaven is a type of sin because *it spreads*. The Jews were to eliminate leaven because the lamb gave its life to pay for their sins, and we should elimin-ate sin because Christ gave His life to pay for ours (I Cor. 5:7)

All God is asking you to do is be who you are, be who He has made you in Christ. You're "accepted in the beloved" Son of God (Mt. 3:17; Eph. 1:6), so you should *live* in a way that is "acceptable" to God (Rom. 12:1). How?

When an unbeliever looks in the mirror of God's Word, he sees himself in all his sin and lack of glory (James 1:23),

for God's Word doesn't pull any punches when it comes to describing the sinfulness of men. But when a believer looks in the mirror of the Word (if he knows how to look) he sees the glory of the Lord *in himself* (II Cor. 3:18). He sees the sinless, sanctified, holy and righteous person God made him to be. And then he can go about employing the principles we've talked about to be changed into His image.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

April 28, 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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