

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

June 30, 2019

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:1-4

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *The Acts of the Apostles* (Acts 1:1-5)

Announcements:

A blessed Independence Day to all!

This morning we begin a study of *The Book of Acts*.

Dave & Sandy Stewart's well pump died. If you can help with the \$1,400 expense, please see them or the Pastor.

Missionary Paul Craesmeyer will be with us next Sunday.

If you know anyone selling a reliable used car, see Pastor.

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 8:26-40 *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*

Philip was way up north in Samaria (8:5-25) when an angel sent him "south" to Gaza (8:26). There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a black man (v.26-28). Many people look down on blacks, but the Bible speaks well of them (Jer. 38:7-10), and God rewarded them when they served Him (Jer. 39:15-18).

"The queen of the south" (Mt.12:42) was probably the queen of Ethiopia. If she got saved, her influence would explain why this Ethiopian eunuch was a proselyte to Judaism (Acts 8:27,28). He'd just worshipped God in Jerusalem, the headquarters of Judaism, but Israel's apostate leaders couldn't answer his question (v.29-31). Not understanding what he read was serious. It meant the devil had snatched the word from his heart (Mt.13:19) and he needed Philip to help him.

He was reading Isaiah 53 (Acts 8:32), which describes the Lord as a sheep before His shearers "dumb." That's a picture of what happened when they cast lots for the Lord's fleece (Mark 15:24). Isaiah also predicted He'd not open His mouth at His trial (Mt.26:62,63). Crucifixion was the way they executed *criminals*, so it was a *humiliating* way to die for someone who *wasn't* a criminal (Acts 8:33), especially for someone who wasn't even a *sinner* (Phil.2:5-8).

When Isaiah predicted His judgment would be taken away, that's defined by when Job said those words (Job 27:1,2). In God's judgment, Job was a righteous man (Job 1:8). But God took away His judgment of Job as a righteous man when He punished Him like an *unrighteous* man (Job 34:5).

In the same way, God judged the Lord to be a righteous man (Isa.53:11), but He took away His judgment as a righteous man when He judged Him as an unrighteous man on the cross. Then when Isaiah said that the Lord's life would be taken away from the earth, and He died without children, "who shall declare His generation?"

If you're thinking that the eunuch was dumb for not knowing who Isaiah was talking about (Acts 8:34), you should know that *nobody* knew, *not even Isaiah* (IPet.1:10-12).

When it says that Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch (8:35), everyone assumes Philip preached Him as Paul would, telling him to believe (Acts 16:31) that Christ died for His sins” (ICor.15:3,4) to be saved. But we can prove that’s *not* what he preached by the eunuch’s response to his preaching.

The eunuch asked about being baptized (8:36). Why would he ask about that if Philip told him to believe and be saved? Isn’t it more likely that he preached Jesus to him the way Peter preached him in Acts 2:38?

Also, the message he said that he believed was the message that Jesus was the Son of God. That’s the kingdom gospel (John 20:31). Today you have to have “faith in His blood” to be saved (Romans 3:25).

But how could Philip preach Christ out of Isaiah 53 and *not* tell him Christ died for his sins? Most Christians believe that everyone knew that as soon as the Lord died, because they read too much into John 3:14,15. But that’s not what the Lord said. He said that when they crucified Him *they’d know He was the Christ* (John 8:28). That was their gospel!

How would they know that? Well, how did the soldiers know it (Mt. 27:50-54)? They’d seen many men crucified, but no one ever died like the Lord. Crucifixion robs you of breath, so you don’t have the breath to cry with a loud voice with your last breath. And the earthquake and 3 hours of darkness convinced them He was God’s Son. And the torn veil in the temple *should* have convinced the Jews!

But that’s *all* that anyone could have concluded about the Lord when He died, that He was God’s Son, until Paul revealed He died for our sins (Rom.3:24-26). No one knew how a holy God could righteously justify sinful men because no one knew Christ would *pay* for our sins.

Not even a man whom the Bible calls “Philip *the evangelist*” (Acts 21:8). That’s the same Philip as in our text here in Acts 8. Wouldn’t you think *an evangelist* would know Christ died for our sins? Philip didn’t, because that wasn’t the gospel of salvation for that day.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

June 30, 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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