

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

September 20, 2020

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-29

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *The Builder and His Building* (I Corinthians 3:9-11)

Announcements:

Next Sunday our guest speaker will be Dave Stewart, as Pastor ministers at *Grace Bible Church* of Bowler, WI.

October 18 our guest speaker will be Josh Dennis, as Pastor ministers at *Grace Gospel Church* of Linton, IN.

Men's Retreat: *Northern Grace Youth Camp's* men's retreat will be September 25-27, with Doug Cox speaking. See Ed Ostrowski if you'd like to go.

Midweek Bible Study is on hold for the time being.

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

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

I Corinthians 3:9-11 *Laboring Together*

Paul begins by comparing himself and Apollos (3:1-8) to "laborers" like farmers and builders (v.9). "Husbandry" is the Bible word for *farming* (cf. James 5:7), and Paul has already compared the ministry farming earlier in this chapter. He told the Corinthians that he planted the seed of the gospel in them and Apollos watered it (3:6).

He had to assure them he and Apollos were "labourers *together*" because some of them liked one over the other, so they thought Paul and Apollos were working *against* one another, vying for their love and money. He gave them *more* assurance they were working together when he explained how he invited Apollos to go to Corinth (I Cor. 16:12), and he showed he wasn't competing with Paul when he refused!

After identifying who the farmers were, Paul identified the farm when he told them, "ye are God's husbandry" (3:9). But the ministry is more than seeing people get saved and become babes in Christ. God wants them to *grow up* in Christ, and to expand on that thought Paul switches from the metaphor of farmers and farming to builders and building, telling them that they are God's building.

God uses both analogies for "the church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38). He called Israel a farm (Ps. 80:8,9) and a build-ing (Amos 9:11). They were the temple God lived in (II Cor. 6:1). Of course, they sometimes got so sinful God had to relocate to heaven! But in the New Testament, the Lord said He planned to build a church that would *never* get so sinful God would be forced to leave it (Mt. 16:16-18). We call it the kingdom church (v.19). But once Israel rejected her kingdom, God stopped building that church and began building the church which is the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22,23).

The first thing you need to build a building is an architect, and the Greek word for “masterbuilder” (v.10) is *architekton*. “Arch” means *chief*, as in *archangel* (Jude 1:9). “Tekton” is translated *carpenter* (Mt.13:55). So put them together and you get *chief carpenter*, or *masterbuilder*. Paul is the architect of the church, the Body (Eph.3:2-6). But he didn’t just draw up the plans in his epistles and hand Apollos the blueprint. He was a “hands-on” architect, helping in the ministry, and so “masterbuilder” describes him perfectly!

We know *Moses* was the architect of the kingdom church because the Lord kept quoting him (Mt.8:4; Mark 10:3; 12:26). The Pharisees were supposed to be the masterbuilders (Mt.23:1-3), but the Lord knew they’d kill Him instead of building the church on Him as the church’s foundation like they should have. So He told a parable in which he combined farming and building to say He’d take the church from them (Mt.21:33-43) and give it to His “little flock” of followers (Luke 12:32), making *them* the new builders.

Of course, the Lord knew the 12 would have to be *wise* masterbuilders, so He gave them a supernatural gift of wisdom (Acts 2:4; 6:3). We see that pictured when God gave *Solomon* a supernatural gift of wisdom *to build the temple and the kingdom* (IIChro. 2:12). That’s why the 12 asked the Lord to “restore” the kingdom like they had under Solomon (Acts 1:6). When Israel rejected the kingdom, God began to build the Body of Christ, making Paul the wise masterbuilder of it by giving *him* a supernatural gift of wisdom as an apostle (cf. Rom.12:6; 15:15,16; Eph.3:7,8).

This helps us understand how Paul could say he laid the foundation of Christ (3:11) even though he wasn’t saved when the Lord came to be the foundation of Israel’s church. He meant He laid Christ as the foundation of a *new* church!

When building on this foundation, Paul has the “house” of *your own personal spiritual life* in mind (cf. Luke 6:46-48), *and* the house of the local church as well, as we’ll see next week!

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

September 20, 2020

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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