

## Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

December 6, 2020

### Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *A Man Who Wasn't Full of Baloney!*  
(Acts 11:24-30)

### Announcements:

**Dave Stewart** will be our guest speaker next Sunday while Pastor is at *Grace Fellowship Bible Church* of Sheridan, AR.

**Berean Bible Institute's** *Spring Semester* begins January 11. Classes in Romans, Joshua–II Chronicles, Marriage, Colossians, Job–Song of Solomon, Apologetics, Daniel/Revelation, and Practical Dispensational Theology are available. See the handouts on the bulletin table.

**Flu shots:** If your boss requires you to get one, and you don't want one, Pastor can write you a religious exemption letter.

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

**Pick up** today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone  
**Acts 11:19-23** *The Chattering of the Scattering*

The “scattered” disciples chattered about *Christ*, of course (v.19)—*but only to Jews!* That shows that they knew when the Lord told them to “teach all nations” (Mt.28:19) that they knew He meant “all nations, *beginning at Jerusalem*” (Lu. 24:47), and that they *couldn't* teach all nations until the nation of Israel was saved, so God could use *them* to reach the Gentiles. God might have just finished teaching Peter that Gentiles were no longer unclean in Acts 10, but that didn't change what God told *the Jews* to do.

“Grecians” (v.20) were Greek-speaking Jews. But some new Bible versions mistranslate this as “Greeks,” the Bible word for *Gentiles*. But we know that they were Jews because some Grecians tried to kill Saul for preaching that Jesus was their Christ (Acts 9:29), and only Jews were upset to hear that their Messiah was a poor carpenter from Nazareth. Plus, these Grecians later sent Paul out to preach to the Gentiles and, when he returned, he reported that while he was out God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. That means the door was *not* opened when these Jews preached to the Grecians.

Now if God didn't *approve* of preaching to only Jews, He would have been against these Jews, but verse 21 says the hand of the Lord was “with” them. How'd they know it was with them? The hand of the Lord is associated with the Spirit (Mt.12:28 cf. Lu.11:20), so they knew God's hand was with them *when those Grecians cast out devils*, etc., by the Spirit.

The leaders of the Jewish kingdom church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to minister to these new Grecian believers (v.22) because he was “the son of consolation” (Acts 4:36). That is, he had a *consoling* personality. The word “sole” means *single*, as when we say someone was the sole survivor of a disaster, the *lone* survivor. And “con” means *against*, like when you are trying to make a decision and you make a list of pros and cons. So when you con-sole

someone, it means you're *against* them being *alone*—especially when they're in distress and *need* consoling. God was able to *use* Barnabas' consoling personality when Saul got saved and tried to meet up with the 12 apostles and they were afraid of him (Acts 9:26). It looked for a while as if Saul would have to *remain* alone, but the son of consolation consoled him.

And this explains why the 12 sent Barnabas to the new *Grecian* believers. Grecians and Hebrews didn't always get along, even when filled with the Spirit (Acts 6:1). The 12 didn't want those new Grecian believers to feel alone and unaccepted by the Jewish church, so sent Barnabas to console them. The Greek word for "exhort" (v.23) is similar to the one for "console."

To do something with purpose of heart (v.23) means *with determination* (Dan.1:8). So when Paul says we should *give* with purpose of heart (II Cor.9:7), we should be as determined to give as Daniel was not to eat forbidden meat!

Of course, Barnabas told the Grecians *to cleave to the Lord* with purpose of heart (v.23). The word "cleave" can mean *to stick with* (Gen.2:24), or to *divide* (Zech.14:4), but the Grecians were obviously being exhorted to do the former.

That can be hard in the face of life's many disappointments, but Barnabas knew a thing or two about disappointments. "Joses...surnamed Barnabas" (Acts 4:36) was probably "Joseph called Barsabbas" (Acts 1:23). If so, do you think maybe he was disappointed that God picked Matthias to be the 12<sup>th</sup> apostle and not him? Acts 1:15-26 says Judas' replacement had to have followed the Lord for all three years of His ministry, so Barnabas must have. He left everything behind to follow Him as Peter left his fishing boats and nets. Then, even after he was passed over for apostleship, he sold all he had when God asked him to (Acts 4:36,37). If *anybody* had a reason to *not* cleave to the Lord, *it was Barnabas*. He had every reason to get bitter and walk away. But he cleaved to the Lord instead. Who better to tell these Grecians to?

You should cleave to the Lord too! Under the law, God promised to reward Jews who cleaved to Him (Deut.11:22, 23). But we're not under the law (Rom.6:15). God blesses us with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph.1:3) and then asks us to walk worthy of Christ (Col.1:10) by cleaving unto Him. So if you're thankful for your blessings, *cleave to Him*.

# Faith Bible Church

[www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com](http://www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com)

December 6, 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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