

## Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

July 18, 2021

### Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:20-29

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Virginia Grosskurth

Message: *The Bible Conference Paul Passed On*  
(Galatians 1:16-24)

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

### Announcements:

**Our new Church Directory** is printed and available on the bulletin table! Pick up your copy today, and remember to thank Ariane for preparing it.

**Our Fall Picnic** date has been confirmed for Sunday, September 12. Mark your calendar and cancel all other plans!

**A reminder:** Remember to give prayer requests in writing to Pastor before the start of the service.

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

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

## Galatians 1:13-16 *Paul's Conversation Peace*

"The Jews' religion" (v.13) was originally *God's* religion. When He gave it to the people of Israel, it was pure and undefiled (James 1:27). But it got so defiled by their disobedience that Paul couldn't bring himself to *call it* God's religion. And before Paul got saved, *he was part of that defilement*, for he "persecuted the church" (v.13).

Many Bible teachers say there's only *one* church in the Bible, "the church, which is His Body" (Eph.1:22,23). But the people of Israel were a church in the wilderness (Acts 7:37). Paul persecuted a church we call *the kingdom church*. We call it that because the Lord promised to give Peter the keys to it (Mt.16:18,19). The keys were *keys of knowledge* (cf.Lu.11: 52), i.e., a knowledge *of the gospel*. That's what determines who gets into God's church in any dispensation.

Paul "wasted" that church by killing its members (cf.Acts 22:4). And the reason he's reminding the Galatians about it is to disprove the legalizers who were saying his gospel was "of men" (Gal.1:11,12). Paul's message was all about Jesus Christ, and anyone who could have given him a message about Christ *was afraid to go near him* (cf.Acts 9:13). That proved his message *wasn't of men*. The proof that his mes-sage was *of God* came when Paul started *preaching* his gos-pel, and had to go from being one of the persecutors to being one of the persecuted! Only God can talk a man into that!

We see *more* proof that Paul's message was of God when we learn he was making *money* in the Jews' religion (Gal.1:14). Only God can make an unsaved religious leader leave his cash flow to preach a message that left him usually *broke*.

He profited by being “zealous” (v.14), a word first used to describe how Phinehas didn’t balk to kill a pregnant woman bearing the seed of the giants when all others in Israel did (Num.25:9-13). Like Phinehas, Paul was killing in the name of God. He’d *profit* from it if there was a bounty on the heads of the Lord’s followers. He’d profit *above his equals* (Gal.1:14) if his equals balked at killing pregnant women and Paul was “exceedingly” zealous like Phinehas was. In addition, Paul said he was zealous *of the tradition of his fathers* (1:14), and one of those traditions consisted of charging for redemption (IPe.1:18,19). His religious fathers charged widows to pray their husbands out of Purgatory (Mt.23:14), and he probably engaged in that *zealously*.

Paul didn’t mean to say God separated him from his mother’s *literal* womb (1:15). Job used that term as an idiom for “Mother Earth” (Job 1:21). That’s where men “return” when they die (Gen.3:19). So what was *Paul’s* “mother’s womb”?

Well, he didn’t say: “You’ve heard of my conversation in the Jews’ religion, and how I profited in the Jews’ religion, but God separated me from the Jews’ religion.” He used his mother’s womb as a figure of speech for it. He was a Phar-isee (Acts 23:6), a word that means “separated one.” So he was making a play on words, *saying God separated him from the separated ones*. He used this idiom to remind us he was as safe and comfortable in the Jews’ religion as he was in his mother’s womb, and only *God* could have made him leave!

So God called him by His grace—not by the kingdom gospel as some say, but by the same grace that called the Galatians (Gal.1:6). And God called him to reveal His Son (1:16). *God* revealed Him when He was born and ministered to the Jews, but they killed Him. Then God revealed Him *in the 12*, but they stoned Stephen. Then

God was *supposed* to reveal Him *in flaming fire* (Lu.17:29,30cf.IThes.1:7,8). Instead, God re-vealed His Son *in Paul*, the foremost example of “them that know not God” (ITh.1:8), by pouring *grace* on him, not fire.

And God called him to preach His Son among “the heathen.” That term used to refer to the Gentiles (Mal.1:11), but now it includes the Jews (Acts 9:15).

# Faith Bible Church

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

July 18, 2021

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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