

## Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

July 25, 2021

### Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Romans 7:1-6

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Paul's Trip to Jerusalem* (Galatians 2:1-5)

### Announcements:

**Josh and Marcia Dennis** are thinking of moving back to our area, but could use some financial help in the meantime. See the pastor if you would like to help. We don't support a missionary as a church, and they're like our missionaries!

**Our Fall Picnic** date has been confirmed for Sunday, September 12. Mark your calendar and cancel all other plans. We'll be joined by a grace man from Crystal Lake!

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

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**Pick up** today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone  
**Galatians 1:16-24** *The Bible Conference Paul Passed On*

Paul is giving his testimony in this passage (v.15) so why would he mention not conferring with flesh and blood (v.16)? He was answering the legalizers who were saying his message was of men and not of God (1:11,12). You can't get a message from men if you don't *confer* with any men! Paul goes on to mention he didn't see the 12 apostles (Gal.1: 17) because they would be the men most likely to have given him his message.

But who would think he got the *grace* message from the 12, who were still preaching the law? Well, after Paul began preaching grace, *the 12 themselves* wondered if his message were of men, so they gathered at the Jerusalem Council to decide. When they decided it was from God, some unsaved Jews probably accused the 12 of turning their backs on the law and conspiring with Paul to concoct this blasphemous new message of grace. That's why Paul says he didn't go see the 12; he went into Arabia. The legalizers might have pointed out that he went to Damascus first (Acts 9:5-9), but we know Paul didn't *confer* with the men in Damascus, for he was busy *praying* there (Acts 9:10,11), *not conferring*. And Paul didn't get his message from Ananias, for he gave Paul his *sight*, not his message (Acts 9:17).

Then Paul hung with the saints in Damascus (9:19), but couldn't have gotten his message from them because he didn't *confer* with them. The word "confer" means to exchange ideas and opinions, and Paul says he *didn't* confer with flesh and blood. Besides, had he asked those Jewish kingdom saints what message to preach, they would have had to say, "Don't ask us. As far as we know, you shouldn't even be saved cuz you blasphemed the Spirit when you consented to the death of Stephen, a man filled with the Spir-it" (Mt.12:31). We know they didn't give

Paul *that* message, for he himself was the pattern for *more* blasphemers who got saved under his new message of grace (ITim.1:15,16).

While in Damascus later, Paul was *preaching*, not conferring (Acts 9:20). Then “after many days” he went to Jerusalem (9:23-27). Galatians 1:18 says “many days” consisted of 3 *years* (cf.I Kings18:1). But the apostles were afraid to confer with him, so he didn’t see them, other than James (Gal.1:19).

Paul only *conferred* with Peter, for only he could give him the only information he wanted—about the sheet vision that made Gentiles clean (Acts 10:28). That’s something *the apostle* of the Gentiles would want to confer about (Rom.11:13)!

But if he was with Peter “fifteen days” (Gal.1:18), why not see the other 11? I think it was because the Lord *knew* men would say he got his message from them, and so told Paul to steer clear of them. He couldn’t have gotten his message from Peter alone, for the 12 were told they needed two or three to do something official like commission a new apostle and give him a new message (Mt.18:18-20). The legalizers couldn’t say Paul got the grace message from James because he was still preaching the law 23 years later (Acts 21:18-20).

Some say it’s not important to insist Paul preached a different message than the 12, but he thought it was important enough *to swear to it* (Gal.1:20)! Then, after proving he didn’t get his message from the *leaders* of the kingdom church, he proved he didn’t get it from its *members* by testifying he was “unknown by face” to them (1:21,22).

Instead, he went to Syria and Cilicia (v.21).We know the legalizers followed him there because later the apostles had to write the new Gentile converts there to say that the

trouble-making legalizers weren’t sent by them (Acts 15:23-27).

Even today, men say that Paul preached what the 12 preached because he preached the faith he once destroyed (Gal.1:23). But the faith he destroyed was the faith men had in the message of “Jesus is the Christ” (John 20:31). Paul preached that, but he *also* preached that He died for our sins!

# Faith Bible Church

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

July 25, 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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