

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

May 15, 2022

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Numbers 22:1-6 *Joe Albrecht*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Joshua Gives A History Lesson* (Joshua 24:1-33)

Announcements

Many thanks to Virginia and Al & Sue Klepper for our new window dressings. Thanks to them, it's curtains for us all!

Next Sunday we'll begin studying some messages Pastor will be bringing at three Bible conferences this summer.

Our Work Day is *this Saturday*, starting at 9 a.m.

Pastor's temporary email address: For now, Pastor Kurth can be reached at Pastorkurth@bereanbiblesociety.org.

Our Spring Picnic date: Sunday, June 5.

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

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

Joshua 23:1-16 *Joshua Addresses Israel's Congress*

Joshua called for a meeting of Israel's leaders (23:1,2), reminded them of how good God had been to them (v.3-5), and told them that "*therefore*" they should have the "courage" to obey God *and not turn to the right or to the left*(v.6).

That's a Bible idiom similar to making *a beeline*. Bees move right and left to gather nectar, but once they are full, they make a beeline *for the hive*. And once you know how spirit-ually *full* God made you in Christ, it's easier to serve Him without turning to the right or left to the world's temptations.

It's natural not to make a beeline, but God can overcome what comes natural, as he did when the Philistines stole the ark. God cursed them with hemorrhoids, but they weren't sure if God was judging them. So they hooked two cows to a cart, put the ark on it, and locked their calves up. They knew the cows would *naturally* stick around to nurse them. They learned He *was* judging them when instead He overcame their natures (cf.Isa.11:6,7) and the cows took the ark home *without turning right or left* (ISam.6:12). And God can overcome your *sinful* nature to serve Him as well.

God *particularly* wanted the Jews to serve Him *by steering clear of pagans* (Josh.23:7), because that led to worshipping their gods. The best way to do that was to not even "men-tion" their names. I know Christians say you should learn about Allah to witness to Muslims, but God told the Jews *not* to learn how the heathen worshipped (Deut.12:30)—or *even mention their gods* (Ex.23:13;Ps.16:4). Christians won't stop, *but God will stop them in the kingdom* (Hos.2:17).

You see, when God remarries Israel (Rev.19:7,8), He isn't going to want to hear the names of His wife's former lovers any more than any husband would, and we see this forbidding of mentioning their names typified here. You needn't read the Book of Mormon to know how to witness to a Mor-mon. If you have a Bible, you have everything you need to do that good work (II Tim.3:16,17). God wants you "*sim-ple*" concerning the evil in religious books (Rom.16:17).

Joshua told them not to "swear by" those gods (23:7) because men "swear by *the greater*" (Heb.6:16). So if they swore *by Baal* to convince a pagan something was true, they'd be admitting Baal was greater than God. That sometimes led to forsaking God completely (Jer.5:7), but it usually led to sinfully worshipping *both* (Zeph.1:4,5). This could be avoided if they'd "come not" at pagan women (Josh.23:7), i.e., *marry* them (cf.Ex.19:15), and instead, "cleave" to *God* (Josh.23:8cf.Gen.2:24;Deut.10:20).

To *motivate* them to cleave to God, Joshua warned them that God will *punish them* if they don't (Josh.23:9-13). When verse 12 says not to "go in unto" their women, that's *another* warning not to marry them (cf.Ruth 4:13). The wisest man in the world disobeyed this warning *and paid the price* (IKi.11:1-5). If you marry someone who worships false gods, when you're "old" like Solomon, you'll end up worshipping Allah, or Buddha—or more *subtle* gods, like the god of *materialism*. If "*covetousness...is idolatry*" (Col.3:5), then materialism is a religion you want to avoid too. You may never *literally* sacrifice your children to materialism (cf.Ps. 106:34-39), but letting them grow up as materialistic as your unsaved spouse condemns them to the slow death of a lifetime of *covetousness*.

To *further* motivate his people, Joshua reminds them that not one good thing of all God promised to give them had

failed (Josh.23:14cf.21:43). But they were under the law that said God would curse them if they disobeyed Him (Lev.26), so Joshua ends with a warning about that (Josh.23:15,16). But under grace, all God's promises are *unconditional* (II Cor.1: 20). Paul promised to return to Corinth but couldn't, so they said *he* took his promises lightly. Paul *used that* to say that *the Lord* will keep *His* promise to return *for us*, and not one good thing of all He's promised *us* will fail *in heaven!*

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

May 15, 2022

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

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