**Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!***

November 20, 2022

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**Order of Service:­­­­­**

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading:

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *The Jerusalem Council Weighs the Evidence*

(Acts 15:12-18).

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

**Announcements**

**A Blessed Thanksgiving** **to all:** “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (IThessalonians 5:18).

**Josh’s father Larry Dennis** has accepted a position in heav-en, and will now be serving the Lord in person. Please keep his wife Dorothy and all the family in prayer.

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

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

**Acts 15:1-11** *Paul’s Message Is Officially Reviewed*

After Paul spent 13 years telling Gentiles they didn’t have to be circumcised to be saved, some Jews said otherwise (v.1). Paul objected, so they sent him to Jerusalem to ask the apos-tles about it (v.2). Paul went (v.3) because *the Lord* revealed he should go “communicate” (Gal.2:1,2) his new gospel of grace to the 12 and the other Jewish kingdom church leaders.

Paul *needed* their stamp of approval on his new ministry, because God was not about to start a *new* church without telling his *old* church about it. So he left his home Gentile church in Antioch, and the church brought him on his way by walking him out of the city (v.3cf.21:4,5).

The “brethren” in Phenice and Samaria were Jewishking-dom saints (v.3cf.Acts 8:5,6;11:19). Verse 3 shows the Av-erage Joe Jew *rejoiced* to hear about the conversion of the Gentiles, *but the leaders might not* (cf.Mark12:37,38). These leaders were saved, but even saved men don’t always accept dispensational changes like the one Paul was introducing.

The Jerusalem church gave Paul a hearing (Acts 15:4), but some saved Pharisees insisted his new Gentile converts had to be circumcised *and* “keep the law” to be saved (v.5). You see, getting circumcised was the first thing the law told a man to do, and it obligated you to do the rest (Gal.5:3). When Paul told the leaders Gentiles weren’t under the law (Rom. 6:15), they convened the council to decide (Acts 15:6).

The Lord told the 12 that the decisions they made on earth would be confirmed in heaven (Mt.18:28-30), and He had no intention of asking Paul to *ignore* that authority and preach grace without their approval. After the 12 and those leaders disputed about it greatly, Peter reminded them that God had earlier sent *him* to a Gentile in Acts 10 to break the ice for Paul’s ministry (Acts 15:7). Who better to introduce God’s *new* main apostle than His *old* main apostle, just as the last Old Testament prophet (Lu.16:16) paved the way for the first New Testament prophet (Mt.3:1-3 cf. Jo.6:14). If *Christ* needed a man to pave the way for Him, Paul needed Peter!

But God *also* used *the Spirit* to introduce the Lord (Mt.3:13, 16), and He used Him to introduce Paul too (Acts 15:8). Pet-er was “astonished” to see a Gentile saved without circumci-sion (Acts 10:44-46) because that meant God had purified their hearts “by faith” alone (Acts 15:9), without the law. That was astonishing in that it showed God put “no differ-ence” (15:9) between Jews and Gentiles, whereas earlier He put a *huge* difference between them (Lev.20:26; Num.23:9).

When Peter reminded the council that the Gentile he minis-tered to was saved without the law, he was reminding them *they already settled this issue* (Acts 11:1-17,18). So Peter asked them why they wanted to put the “yoke” of the law on *Paul’s* Gentile converts (Acts 15:10 cf. Gal5:1-3). Obligat-ing them to do the whole law meant doing it *100% perfect, 100% of the time* (Gal.3:10cf.James 2:10,11). Acts 15:10 says that that would “tempt” or *try* God (Gen.22:1,2cf.Heb. 11:17). God tried Abraham’s *faith* in Genesis 22, and it’d try God’s *patience* to force Gentiles to be circumcised after God proved by His Spirit that they didn’t *need* circumcision.

Finally, Peter said, “You guys are trying to make Gentiles get saved like us Jews, by circumcision and the law. But *we’re* going to be saved *like them,* by grace” (Acts 15:11). They were *already* saved, but their salvation worked like yours does. You were saved when you believed, but the *completion* of your salvation will come at the Rapture (Rom. 13:11). Peter was saved when *he* believed, but the comple-tion of *his* salvation—and the salvation of all the rest of the Jewish kingdom saints—will come when the Lord saves them by grace—“graciously” (Hosea 14:1-4), when He takes away the sin out of *their lives* when they enter the kingdom, just as He purified *their hearts* by faith when they believed.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

November 20, 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.

*Myrtle Harrison*

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