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

October 8, 2023

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**Order of Service:­­­­­**

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Acts 22:25-30 *Tracey South*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Paul’s Trial Before the Jewish Council*

 (Acts 23:1-11)

**Announcements**

**Grace Bible Conference:** The annual local Bible Con-ference of *Bible Doctrines To Live By* is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, in Middlebury, Indiana, from 9 till 4. Sign the signup sheet if you’d like to take a bus.

**Our next ladies meeting**will *this Saturday* from 2-4, here at the church.  See Virginia or Sue Klepper to learn more.

**Next Sunday** Pastor Tim Board will be here to present his ministry with *Things To Come Mission* and provide special music, after which Pastor Kurth will bring the message.

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

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

**Acts 22:17-30** *Paul Argues With the Lord*

Paul told that murderous mob of unsaved Jews that he was praying “in the temple” (v.17) to answer their charge that he was *against* the temple (21:28). The Lord put him in a “trance” to answer his prayer in a “vision” (cf. 11:5), a vision he describes in v.18. And if the Lord told him to get out of Jerusalem because they wouldn’t get saved, that proved he’d been praying they *would*, and returned to give them the gospel. That answered the charge that he was against the people of Israel (21: 28). He loved them enough to argue with his Lord for them! The fact that the Lord told him to leave Jerusalem and now he was *back* gave them *further* proof he loved them. It’s even possible they had heard that the Spirit had repeatedly told him *not* to return (20:23; 21:4).

If I told you Hillary Clinton was once a Republican who campaigned for Barry Goldwater, the archbishop of the Republican party, wouldn’t you want to know why she switched parties? Paul argued with the Lord that he had been the archbishop of the campaign against Jesus of Nazareth, and the Jews would want to hear why *he* switched parties.

Paul knew the mention of Gentiles would set them off (cf. 22: 22), but eventually he had to be honest and tell them that that’s who the Lord sent him to (v.21). He wasn’t *trying* to set them off, of course. He was trying to provoke them to emulate the Gentiles by getting saved by grace too (Rom. 11:11-14). It’s possible that what *really* angered them was that they’d always suspected Ezekiel 3:4-7 was right, and that the Gentiles would listen to God when they would not.

When their unbelief interrupted Paul’s message (v.22), that symbolized how God’s kingdom program for the Jews was interrupted by their unbelief in Acts 7. The Lord sat at God’s right hand (Mk.16:19), but *stood* in Acts 7:54-56 because it was time to judge them (Ps.110:1; Isa.3:13). Instead, He *saved* Paul, the *leader* of their unbelief. We *also* see the interruption of the kingdom program illustrated when they interrupted Stephen’s message by stoning him, when Paul was interrupted on his way to Damascus, and when Peter was giving the gospel to Cornelius (Acts 10:43,44). God interrupted Herod when he tried to kill Peter in Acts 12 to symbolize how the persecution that would have come in the Tribulation had been interrupted. God interrupted Paul when he tried to offer a sacrifice (21:26,27) to show that kingdom sacrifices had been interrupted. And the Jews interrupted Paul in Acts 22 as he tried to save Jerusalem, to show that *that too* had been interrupted (Isa.62:1). Agrippa interrupted Paul (26:27-31) to picture how the salvation of earth’s kings was interrupted (Ps.72:1). And Acts and Paul’s epistles interrupt God’s “kingdom” program for Israel in Matthew to John (Mt.4:17) and Hebrews to Revelation (IIPet.1:10,11).

Paul took it graciously when his rights as a citizen were vio-lated (Acts 22:25) as an example to us. When the govern-ment saved him from his enemies (v.26-30), that symbolized a dispensational difference from the *miraculous* ways God saved His people in the Old Testament (Lev.26:7,8), and the miraculous way He avenged them if anyone *harmed* them (Deut. 32:41,43). God protects and avenges *us* using the gov-ernment (Rom.12:19 cf. 13:4), as we see pictured with Paul.

Since Paul was *also* a citizen of *Israel* by birth, he had a dual citizenship that illustrated the message he preached. He preached that Jews and Gentiles were now being baptized into one Body (ICor.12:13), and *he himself* was a Jew and a Gentile in one body. The 12 illustrated the message *they* preached, the message that said God divided the earth to be ruled by 12 men in the kingdom (Deut.32:28; Mt.19:28).

Paul is also a picture of you and I. We’re citizens of the U.S., *and* citizens of heaven (Phil.3:20), so we need to be sure not to offend people of either citizenship, or believers (ICor.10: 32). That’s the only way to be “blameless and harmless” as we shine as God’s light in the world (Phil.2:15).

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

October 8, 2023

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

*Thornton Harrison, Jim Tollar, Ray Seiler, Oscar Ochoa Jr.*

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

*Pastor Ricky Kurth*

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

*Myrtle Harrison*

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