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

January 29, 2023

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**Order of Service:­­­­­**

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:1-9 *McKenna South*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Virginia Grosskurth

Message: *A Tale of Three Cities* (Acts 17:10-21)

**Announcements**

**Next Sunday,** Pastor Jim Tollar will not present a lesson, he will spend the entire hour responding to your questions. So if you have some, write them down so you don’t forget them!

**The new Berean Searchlight is here!** Pick up your copy on the bulletin table today. You can also subscribe to receive them at home. There is no subscription fee.

**Josh Dennis** and his family have moved temporarily to Florida so he can fulfil his contractual obligation to his employer, but plans to return in a few months after saving up enough money for a down payment on a place to rent here.

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

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

**Acts 17:1-9** *Paul’s Same Old Routine*

Paul’s same old routine involved entering a city and making a *beeline* for the synagogue (v.1). But he didn’t pass over Amphipolis and Apollonia because God told him He hadn’t chosen any of those people to be saved. His *new* routine was to target big cities and let the gospel radiate out from them to small towns like those, *and it worked* (cf. IThes.1:8).

But why did he go to synagogues if he was “the apostle of *the Gentiles”* (Rom.11:13)? It was *to provoke them to get saved* (v.14) by magnifying his office to the Gentiles. “Emu-lation” is a form of jealousy that makes you want to *emulate* someone, and “emulate” means to want to *equal* or *excel you* at what you’re doing. Paul was doing *the Jews’* job of reaching the Gentiles, and magnifying his office would make them want to get saved and join him in reaching the Gentiles. Some did, and became his *equals,* his *fellows* (Col.4:10,11). Saved Jews will *excel* Paul at reaching the Gentiles in the kingdom (Rom.11:12; Isa.11:9). In the meantime, God’s Word says that the best way to reach the Jews is by magnifying Paul’s apostleship to the Gentiles, as we do.

Paul was only in Thessalonica 3 sabbath days (Acts 17:2), or 14 days total, but the Philippians sent him money there “once and again” (Phil.4:15,16)—and they only had *one messenger* to do it (Phil.2:25-30). How’d you like to walk 400 miles in 14 days? Paul says to hold Christians like that “in reputation.”

Paul preached *boldly* in Thessalonica, even though it got him beaten and imprisoned in Philippi (IThes.2:2). It took bold-ness to do that because Jews didn’t want to believe their mes-siah was crucified (ICor.1:23). Crucifixion was the death of *crooks,* not *Christs.* This proves that Jews like Abraham and David weren’t saved by believing Christ would someday die for their sins, as some say (cf.Gal.3:8). There *were* verses that said Christ would die, but Jews preferred the verses that said He would make *their enemies* die (cf.Lu.1:68-75). Paul proved Jesus was Israel’s Christ (Acts 17:3) by quoting verses like Genesis 49:10, Micah 5:2, and Isaiah 35:4-6.

When “some” Jews believed, but “a great multitude” of Gentiles believed (Acts 17:4), that’s a picture of how the Body of Christ is made up of both, but this is a primarily *Gentile* dispensation.

“Envy” (17:5) is another form of jealousy, the bad kind (cf. Acts13:44,45). “Lewd” means *lustful,* and “base” means *low,* like the base of something is the lowest part. Envy in the heart of a *few* men ended with *a city* in an uproar, so don’t let it get so much as a *toehold* in your life (cf.Mt.27:17,18).

They assaulted “the house of Jason” because they thought Paul was staying with family (cf.Rom.16:21), but he wasn’t (Acts 17:6). They were right/ Paul *was* turning the world up-side-down, but *Adam* had turned it upside down, so turning it upside-down *again* would turn it *right side up.* Paul did it with *grace,* but after the age of grace ends at the Rapture, the gloves are coming off, and God will turn the world upside-down with *wrath*. He’ll start with Israel, because they should have known better (IIKi.21:12-15; IPet.4:17). But after that, He’ll turn *the whole world* upside-down in judgment (Isa. 24:1,19). For now, He wants it turned upside down with grace, and *not* with angry petitions and protest marches.

If the charge of doing things contrary to Caesar sounds familiar, it’s because that’s what they charged the Lord with (Lu.23:1,2). If the reaction Paul got sounds familiar (Acts 17:8,9), it’s because that’s the reaction the Lord got (John 19:12). I Thessalonians 4:13-17 indicates that some of the believing Thessalonian Jews were *killed*. That’s why Paul chose that church to talk to them about how the dead in Christ will precede the living at the Rapture (IThes.4:13-17). The dead in Christ in Thessalonica hadn’t died of malaria, they died of *persecution.*

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

January 29, 2023

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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