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

February 12, 2023

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**Order of Service:­­­­­**

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading:

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Virginia Grosskurth

Message: *The Establishing of the Corinthian Church*

(Acts 18:1-11)

**Announcements**

**Pastor Jim Tollar** will be our guest speaker on March 26, as Pastor will be ministering the Word at a conference at the *West Valley Grace Fellowship* in Sun City West, Arizona.

**If you enjoyed** last week’s Adult Sunday School questions and answers session, Pastor Tollar has scheduled another one for March 26. Be saving up your Bible questions!

**April 2:** We’ll be observing the Lord’s Supper for the first time since we discontinued it due to Covid concerns.

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

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

**Acts 17:22-34** *Paul’s Answer to Superstition*

“Superstitious” (v.22) means *excessively devoted,* as the Athenians were *to their idols* (cf.v.16). They’d park an “al-tar” (v.23) in front of each idol *to sacrifice to* *it* (Ezek.6:13). But the one Paul found had no idol, for it was to the *unknown* God (v.23). They had 30,000 gods, but were superstitiously afraid they’d missed one! Paul said he would tell them about that god they were already worshipping, lest they kill him for trying to introduce a *new* god, like they did to Socrates.

Paul told them their unknown God created heaven and earth (v.24), because after He did, He spent the next 2,000 years trying to get the Gentiles to worship Him. They refused to (Rom.1:21), so Paul is taking them back to their roots as Gentiles to show them where they went wrong, as Stephen did when he took the Jews back to *their* roots (Acts 7:2).

The first place they went wrong was in building God *temples* (Acts 17:24cf.IISam.7:5-7). Secondly, they worshipped Him “with men’s hands” (Acts 17:25), i.e., with *idols* (cf.Isa.2:8), “as though” God needed an idol to represent Him! He’s a *giver,* not a need-er. He gave us all “life” (Acts 17:25) when He gave us “breath” (v.25cf.Gen.2:7). And He gave us “all things” (v.25) when He made Adam king of the world.

God didn’t make us “all of one blood” *as opposed to the four blood types*. He made us “one blood” as compared to when Satan made men of *two* bloods (Gen.6:1-4). Letting that hap-pen was the Gentiles’ *third* mistake. But the Athenians could relate to that! Their gods were always sleeping with women and having kids called *demigods*. But God made men of one blood when He killed off those men of *demonic* blood with the flood, and appointed Noah king of the world, and all men came from *his* blood. That’s what “determined the times be-fore appointed” means (Dan.2:21). They could relate to that too, since they believed Zeus flooded the world, and Deucal-ion survived on an ark, and we all came from *his* blood.

Ancient man’s *fourth* mistake came when Noah’s seed refused to “replenish” the earth (Gen.9:1), *and built a city instead* (11:1-4). God scattered their language (v.6-9) to make *them* scatter. That set up “nations” (Acts 17:26), nations who set “the bounds of their habitation” when they set up *borders* around their nations. God did that to make them “seek the Lord” (v.27cf.Gen.11:4-6), but those scatter-ed Gentiles built *more* cities *in their nations.* And when men live together, they start telling each other how smart they are, and “imagine” (Rom.1:21-23) something really vain—that *they* are God. They had a better chance finding God by *feeling after* Him, like blind unsaved men have to, than they had living next to a neighbor who told them *they* were gods.

The Greeks believed the gods all lived far off on Mt. Olym-pus, but Paul says the *unknown* God wasn’t far from them (v.27cf.Ps.139:7-10). They made *images* to their far-off gods to bring them up close and personal, but Paul said they didn’t need to do that for their unknown God. He then re-minded them their own poets said we’re God’s “offspring” (v.28). We’re His offspring by *creation* (Lu.3:23, 38), but His *children* by faith (Gal.3:26). But since offspring resem-ble their fathers, and we “live” and “move,” they shouldn’t think God is an idol that *doesn’t* live and move (Acts 17:29).

“Winked at” (v.30) means *to overlook,* as when a grandfath-er winks at a grandson who did wrong instead of punishing him. God overlooked *idolatry* in Gentiles for 2,000 years (Acts 14:15,16) because He intended to get *the Jews* saved and have *them* tell Gentiles to repent. So He didn’t suffer idolatry *in Jews* (Ezek.14:6), but He suffered it in Gentiles—*until Paul.* He then sent *Paul* to tell “*all* men” to repent of idolatry (Acts 17:30cf.26:20), not just *Jewish* men.

They knew what “man” Paul meant (v.31cf.v.18). God made *Him* the world’s judge (Jo.5:22,27) because He could judge as one who’d been tempted and didn’t sin. Men thought they got rid of their judge when He died, *but they didn’t!*

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

February 12, 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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