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

February 18, 2024

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**Order of Service:­­­­­**

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:18-23 *Tracey South*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Why Would God Ever Give Up on Anyone?* (Romans 1:24-32)

**Announcements**

**Romans Revision:** Boyd Otvos made a valuable suggestion that helped Pastor revise his Romans commentary. Printed out copies of the revision are available on the bulletin table.

**Next Sunday** Missionaries Bernardo and Carol Craesmeyer will be with us to present their ministry in Brazil, after which Pastor will bring the message from Romans.

**New address:** Oscar and Rhonda Ochoa, and Brooks and Carter: 339 Oriole Ave. Crown Point, Indiana 46307. Call Oscar at (815) 549-3304, and Rhonda at (219) 313-7159.

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

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

**Romans 1:18-23** *Man’s Responsibility to Believe*

God revealed His wrath against men’s ungodliness *visibly* in the past (IIPet.2:4,5; Gen.19:24), but today it “is” (v.18) re-vealed *in the gospel.* The gospel is the context (v.15-17), and it *and it only* reveals what God thinks of men’s ungodliness. It’s *fair* for God to be wrathful enough against men to send them to hell, for they “hold the truth in unrighteousness.” I.e., they know and believe the truth, but refuse to “receive” it (cf.IIThes.2:10) that they might be *made* righteous (IICor. 5:21). Their unbelief is the “unrighteousness” of verse 18.

God would be unjustified to expect men to believe truth that can’t be known, but “that which may be known of God is manifest in them” (Rom.1:19). “Manifest” means *visible* (IJo.1:1,2), and Paul says that which may be known of God is “clearly seen,” even though it’s “invisible” (Rom.1:20) be-cause the word “even” means he’s talking about God’s “eter-nal power and Godhead.” Bent-over palm trees show the power of invisible wind, and the earth and stars God made show *His* invisible power (Ps.19:1-3). It’s called “eternal” because He had to have existed *before* creation to have *created* creation. Creation has been showing God’s power “from” or *since* “the creation of the world” (cf. Mark 13:19).

The second of the “invisible things” God has shown men in creation is that He is the *Head* of men and all things because He *created* them. That’s what “Godhead” means (cf. Col.2: 9,10). Paul seems to imply men can be saved by believing the two things of God’s power and Godhead, but James says you can’t (Jas. 2:19). Don’t men have to believe the gospel (ICor.15:3) to be saved? Well, babies and the mentally infirm go to heaven without believing *any* gospel (Deut.1: 35-39; Ezek.45:19,20) because they *can’t* believe, so God would be unrighteous to send them to hell. But He would be just as unrighteous to send others to hell for not believing the gospel if they never *heard* it; just as He’d be unrighteous to send men to hell for not believing the gospel because they

weren’t chosen to be saved, as Calvinism wrongly teaches. But the thief on the cross was saved without baptism when it was required (Mark 1:4; Lu.23:43) because he *would* have been baptized if he could have. And God saves sinners who receive the witness of creation because He knows they *would* believe the gospel if they could. This is called “the *everlast-ing* gospel” (Rev.14:6,7) because it saves *everlastingly.*

But many men talk themselves out of believing God created all things and believe the Big Bang Theory. This is nothing new, for men *historically* glorified God not as God (Rom.1: 21). Men who believe God created the sun that grows their crops *thank* Him, but those who no longer believe that aren’t “thankful” to Him, they thank *the sun*, and worship the host of heaven (Deut.4:14,19; IIKi.17:15,16). Words like “vain” are connected to idolatry like that (Jer.8:19), and idolatry darkens men’s souls *even today* (Eph.4:17). Worshipping the sun rather than God *lowers* a man’s understanding of God. Egyptians worshipped the Nile, which furnished them with fish, but that lowered God *more* from worshipping the sun. Ancient men then worshipped the net they used to fish in riv-ers like the Nile (Hab.2:15,16), then worshipped themselves for working the net (Ro.1:23). That lowers God because He is incorruptible, but man is “corruptible” and can die.

Worshipping “birds” lowers God *more,* from a god that can *die* to a god you can *kill* and *eat.* That’s also true of “four-footed beasts,” and you can make *them* your *servant.* Now you’ve gone from worshipping a God *you* should serve to one that serves *you.* And creeping things are the lowest form of animal, so now you’ve lowered God *as low as you can go.*

And all of this is why we still need to send out missionaries. You see, the stars still reach people, but millions still talk themselves out of receiving their truth. And millions more still believe God created all things and is their Head, but have chosen to believe Catholicism, etc., and need to be saved by the gospel as much as those who believe the Big Bang.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

February 18, 2024

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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