

The Good News of the Resurrection



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Key idea:

The literal, physical, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, all of which were observed by many witnesses and reliably passed down to us, is the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation.

Key text:

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them — yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Key points:

1. The Gospel is literally “good news” about salvation, and it is thus the most important news in the world.
2. Paul defines the content of the Gospel as having three main components:
 - a. Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins - according to the Scriptures
 - b. Christ was truly dead and was buried
 - c. Christ was literally, physically raised from the dead - according to the Scriptures
3. There were over 500 eye-witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection, thus providing solid historical evidence that Jesus was truly raised from the dead.

4. The drastic change in the lives of the early eye-witnesses to the resurrection, especially the apostles, all of whom maintained their proclamation that Jesus was alive even when martyred for this belief, provides powerful corroborating evidence to the historical evidence for the resurrection.
5. The Gospel must be clearly proclaimed, and everyone who believes and holds to it will be eternally saved and raised from the dead on the last day.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. If I had to choose one thing that the Lord taught me or did in my life during Lent this year, what would it be?
3. Why is it important for us to remember that the word "Gospel" literally means "good news"?
4. What cultural trends make it hard for me to keep a proper focus on the Gospel? How can I make sure that I keep the Gospel of first importance each day this week?
5. Why is it necessary to keep all three aspects of the Gospel (Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day) together? What happens if I neglect one or more of these areas? How would that distort my understanding of the Gospel and my Christian life?
6. If someone asked me to summarize the Gospel, what would I tell them?
7. Many people think of faith as "believing something without proof". Why is this understanding wrong according to the Bible? Why does Paul tell us we should believe the Gospel? Why does he list evidence for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus rather than just appealing to how Christ has worked in his own life?
8. If someone asked me why I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, what would I tell them?
9. How can I let the joy of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection fill my life this week?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

Preview of Next Week: 2 Timothy 3:14-17