

Theme: 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.

## I. Intro - The More Things Change...

- A. The more things change, the more they stay the same!
- B. Our world seems very different than the 1st century
- C. But we are the same as humans then, with the same problems, needs, and facing the same errors
- D. Corinth faced the same heresy as Ephesus & so do we
- E. What is the Gospel? How do we know it's true?

## II. The Good News and Its Importance

### A. The Gospel is Good News!

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. <sup>2</sup> By this **gospel** you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 1 Cor 15:1–2

- 1. Paul wants the Corinthians to remember the Gospel
- 2. Gospel - literally 'Good News'
- 3. As we will see, this message is the best of all news!

### B. The Gospel is the most important news in the world

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. <sup>2</sup> By this **gospel** you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance... 1 Corinthians 15:1–3

- 1. Paul reminds us of the Gospel because it is critical
  - 2. The Gospel is of first importance - most important
  - 3. The Gospel is where we are to take our stand
  - 4. We are saved by the Gospel
  - 5. If we do not hold on to the Gospel, everything else is in vain
- C. In a world of ephemeral, silly news, the Good News of the Gospel is the most important news we will ever hear.

## III. The Content of the Gospel

### A. Christ died for our sins

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, 1 Corinthians 15:3

- 1. Jesus literally, physically died for our sins
- 2. His death was to pay the penalty due us for our sins
- 3. His death was "according to the Scriptures"  
Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4–6
  - a. Jesus, the Suffering Servant died for our sins
  - b. He was stricken, smitten, afflicted by God

- c. This was all because of our sin
- d. We were due punishment, but it was laid on Jesus
- e. The NT says this is all about Jesus  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

1. Jesus bore our sins in His Body
2. By His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:5)

4. He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins  
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29"
  - a. Jesus is the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament sacrificial system
  - b. This is a central message of the book of Hebrews

#### B. Christ was buried

that **he was buried**, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:4

1. He was buried - He truly died and was in a tomb
2. His burial in an identifiable tomb is recorded in all four Gospels
  - a. There is no doubt He had physically died
  - b. The location of His Body was known to all the disciples - and to the Jews and Romans
  - c. Any theory saying He did not die or that His body was left on the cross or put in the dump or that they went to the wrong tomb is intellectual suicide and a denial of the historical facts
3. This too was actually according to the Scriptures

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Is 53:9

- a. He was assigned a grave with the rich
- b. This was fulfilled by Joseph of Arimathea

#### C. Christ was raised from the dead

that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, 1 Corinthians 15:4

1. Jesus was raised from the dead
2. This is not a "spiritual" raising anymore than it was a "spiritual" death or burial!
3. The Body that died is the Body that was buried is the Body that was raised! This is the Gospel!
4. The entire point of 1 Corinthians 15 is literal, physical resurrection - with Christ as the example!
5. The Bodily resurrection on the third day was according to the Scriptures  
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; **my body also will rest secure, <sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.** <sup>11</sup> You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:9–11
  - a. David spoke of the resurrection
  - b. David's body did decay - not the Holy One, Jesus Christ!
  - c. This is the focus of Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and Paul's in Acts 13

#### D. The literal, physical, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation.

## IV. Witnesses To Christ's Resurrection

- A. There are many eye-witnesses of Jesus' resurrection and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1 Corinthians 15:5-8
1. Jesus first appeared to Peter and the Twelve - we are told about this in the Gospels and Acts
  2. Jesus appeared to more than 500 witnesses at one time - and some of them were still alive when Paul wrote this letter in the early 50's AD
  3. Jesus then appeared to His brother James and some others who became apostles
  4. Jesus then appeared to Paul last of all
  5. This group of between 500 and 600 people were eye-witnesses of Jesus' literal, physical resurrection from the dead and gave firm eye-witness testimony of this historical fact.
  6. The Gospel and Jesus' bodily resurrection is not based on a "leap of faith" - it is based on solid historical evidence!
- B. The drastic change in these people's lives gave added testimony to the reality of the resurrection
1. Peter and the Twelve went from timid followers who abandoned Jesus to those willing to die - every last one!
  2. James doubted Jesus but after the resurrection became a leading apostle and called Himself Jesus' slave - and was martyred for his faith!

3. Paul went from a persecutor to an apostle who was willing to die for Jesus - and did!  
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. <sup>10</sup> 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. 1 Corinthians 15:9-10
4. Every one of these claimed to have personally seen the Risen Jesus, and they were changed from fearful followers or even opponents of Jesus into bold, faithful followers.
5. Every one of these died holding to their statement that Jesus was raised from the dead - not a single defection!
6. This is powerful corroborating evidence to add to the historical accounts of the resurrection!

## V. Applying the Word

- A. Don't listen to the "fake news" of false gospels
1. We live in a time of information glut and "fake news"
  2. There are many false gospels today
    - a. The Gospel of expressive individualism - salvation is finding and expressing your authentic self
    - b. The Gospel of "my truth" - salvation and truth are different for each person
    - c. The Gospel of "sincerity" - it does not matter what you believe as long as you are sincere
    - d. The Gospel of good works - you are basically good and will be accepted if you do good things for others

e. The Gospel of liberal Christianity - Jesus did not really get raised, He lives in our memory

3. All of these are the real “fake news” - and their news is BAD NEWS for they can not save

4. There is only one Gospel, and it is built upon the literal, physical death of Jesus for our sins, His burial in the grave, and His bodily resurrection when He conquered death.

5. This is “true news”, real news, and GOOD NEWS!

#### B. Embrace the Gospel today!

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. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

Otherwise, you have believed in vain... <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. 1 Corinthians 15:1–2, 11

1. This Gospel not only happened - it was preached!
2. This Gospel was not only preached - it was received
3. This Gospel was not just mentally accepted - they took their stand on it
4. This Gospel saves - but only if we receive it, believe it, stand upon it, and do not let it go!
5. Have you believed the Gospel? Do it today!
6. Christian - He is Risen and gives His resurrection power to you - live in it today!

#### C. The Lord's Table

## The Good News of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

April 17, 2022

Communion

Ephesians 1:18-21

Teaching keywords: Easter; Gospel; resurrection; salvation and deliverance

May the eyes of your heart be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Go forth, filled with the power and blessings of the resurrection, and be a blessing!  
Ephesians 1:18–21

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<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. <sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. 1 Corinthians 15:1–11