

## The Gospel in the Resurrection

I Corinthians 15:1-14 *“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

At this time of the year when we as Christians celebrate the resurrection, it is most proper for us to consider the importance of the resurrection to us as Christians. Without question chapter fifteen of Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth, as a whole, speaks to us as to how the doctrine of the resurrection affects us and our faith as individuals. As we look at the first four verses of this chapter we shall see why Paul emphasizes how important it is for the church to preach the gospel as it is revealed to us in Holy Scripture. And I think it becomes of even greater importance for us in this post-modern day because to most modern thinkers, truth, as an absolute, no longer exists; because they say truth is simply whatever you want it to be. And secondly I trust it will be of help for you to see how in the doctrine of the resurrection Paul provides for us an outline of the necessary truths of the gospel, truths that must be faithfully held and proclaimed by the church lest the preaching of the gospel be lost in this day.

A. The importance for the church to faithfully proclaim the gospel as given to us in Holy Scripture

1. Men will be saved by the preaching of the gospel if the church holds fast the word Paul has preached to them. - *by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast** that word which I preached to you*
2. Remind you of Paul had a similar concern for the Galatians in that that they had rejected the gospel for “another gospel” which was not the gospel.
3. The Church at Corinth is being troubled in a similar vein.

*1 Cor 15:12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead*

- a. We see from this that there were those in their midst who were questioning the resurrection.
- b. Paul here is asking what did you miss?

*For I delivered to you first of **all that which I also received**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

4. Paul is telling the Corinthians that the only gospel that will save them is the gospel which he himself received from Jesus Christ,
    - a. The church cannot pick and choose what they want to believe and what they desire to reject.
    - b. It is important for us to understand that the gospel is God’s, and God determines what is in the gospel and what is not in the gospel.
    - c. These things are in the gospel and you can’t take them out.” That’s a tremendously important lesson for us today.
    - d. We live in what is called a “post-modern world” where everyone’s opinion is truth.
  5. Paul here is underscoring the importance of the fact that we must not edit the gospel as we go along when he writes - *‘Brethren, the gospel which I preach to you, which also you received, which also you stand, by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast to the word which I preached to you.**’*
- B. Paul’s then outlines for those Corinthian believers five irreducible truths that are essential elements of the gospel. - *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

1. The first necessary element of the gospel is that Jesus is the Messiah
  - a. Paul here uses the title of Jesus not his personal name.
  - b. Christos is the Greek word for Hebrew word - Messiah
  - c. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Christ
2. Paul then tell us that it was necessary that the Christ, the Messiah died for our sins. - *Christ died for our sins*
  - a. It was necessary that He took upon Himself our guilt and paid the payment justice required.

*2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- b. Note carefully Paul does not simply state Christ died, but that He died **for our sins**.

3. He was dead - He did not fake a death He was dead

*John 19:32-34 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

4. He was buried, He was placed in a tomb, it was sealed and watched over by Roman soldiers.

*Matt 27:62-65 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.*

5. Paul points out the fifth necessary truth of the gospel, *He rose again the third day*

- a. If Christ be not risen then our faith is in vain.
- b. Paul then brings forth witnesses pointing out that He was seen by the Apostles

*1 Cor 15:4,6 He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

- c. They marveled at Him in His resurrection and worshipped Him

*Matt 28:16-17 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him*

*John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

- d. He further points out that he was seen of above 500 witnesses many still alive as Paul is writing this letter

*1 Cor. 15:6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present*

- e. Finally Paul himself gives his personal witness to the resurrected Christ - *Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 1 Cor 15:8*

6. And finally that all this happen according to the Scriptures - *Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures.***"

- a. Paul here is appealing to the authority of the Scriptures
- b. It is important that we today understand that the gospel is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures concerning the coming Messiah.
- c. Jesus alone has fulfilled all the Scriptures concerning the Messiah
- d. This is evidence beyond dispute that Jesus and only Jesus could be the promised Messiah

**Conclusion:** Herein is our great hope this morning - for according to the Scriptures

Even as Paul quoting from Isaiah 25:8 he proclaims *"It is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"*

*Isa 25:8-9 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."*

We can with Paul shout out with joy - "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Christ the Lord is Risen - - - **He is risen indeed**