

Easter Sunday

Now, brothers and sisters, 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 Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters 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.

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 is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

1 Cor. 15:1-11

Simple Observations from Text

- remind you – not a new idea or concept
 - key, important – already delivered and received
- you received and stood upon
 - placed yourself firmly in – foundational, counting on it
 - gospel you are saved by – essential to life, critical
 - hold firmly to – not a one time assent, a continuing in
- handed down as 1st importance
 - essential, important – put this at the top of things

a) Christ Died for Our Sins

- sinless, God become man – went to cross for our sin
- my sin worthy of death – Jesus paid my price
- love that is overwhelming – paid what I could not

b) According to Scriptures

- God's plan from the beginning – revealed to us
- prophecy clear, promised and delivered

c) Buried

- spear in side ensured death
- wealthy friend with grave
- 100lbs of burial clothes

d) raised on the third day

- Acts 10:39-43 ***“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”***

- grave clothes, witnesses, rock moved, raised - clear

e) Seen by Witnesses

- Peter
- 12 Disciples
- more than 500 of the brothers – ask them
- brother James
- Paul himself

f) amazing grace

- I persecuted, killed my brothers, denied truth
- grace of God – undeserved merit, forgiven – restored
- empowered to serve – preach the truth

So What

1 Cor. 15:12-20 ***“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep***

- If the Christ not raised then.....
 - our preaching is in vain
 - your faith is in vain - futile and hopeless
 - we would be false witnesses
 - those who have died are doomed
 - we are to be of all men – pitied

- Christ has Risen from The Dead –

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

1. We Are Forgiven!

- Rom. 4:25 ***“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”***
- penalty paid – the work complete – we can stand before Holy God just as if we never sinned – justified – through Christ
- personally – long for acceptance by God
 - can't earn it, work enough for it, make myself acceptable
 - seem to battle with my flesh – bent towards failure & sin
 - that God the Father turned from his son as my sin placed there, and now has glorified Him, given him the name above all names, coming King and Judge, power over all – payment accepted

2. We Have A Foundation for Our Faith

- Galatians 2:20 ***“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. “***

- God loved us this much – promised and provided a savior – no matter what our earthly wisdom and intellect – God is doing!

- personally – can be confident He loves me & is at work
 - given the Holy Spirit to indwell and guide
 - through all He allows in my path – will grant to me the strength, guidance, wisdom, perspective, courage to face and walk through faithfully. I can trust his promises and word to be true

3. We Can be Confident of the Gospel

- John 14:6 ***“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”***
- Matthew 28:18 ***“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.***
- Power proven, truth evident – we can with confidence believe and trust the good news of the gospel – and share it without hesitation
- Personally – need to be confident in truth. That there are consequences, blessing, that God is able, that this earth is not our home, that the bible can be trusted, and there is right and wrong.

4. We Have A Sure Future

- Christ is alive – seated at the right hand of the father, all our obedience, all our love, all our self denial – worth it!

- We will be reunited with our loved ones, there is a place in heaven for us, Christ is returning for his church

- My participation in His mission – spreading the gospel, using my gifts in the body, living as a witness – will be judged, noticed, rewarded and has eternal consequence

- Personally -