

The Greatest Reminder

Today in our World:

- natural disasters
- wars & rumors of wars
- injustice and abuse
- evil and rejection of good
- rebellion and belief in our own goodness
- idolatry and pursuit of our own desires

We need to remember what God has done, is doing

Paul says – gospel on which we take our stand!



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“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. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 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. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 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. 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. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.”

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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? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 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. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.” 1 Cor 15:1-24

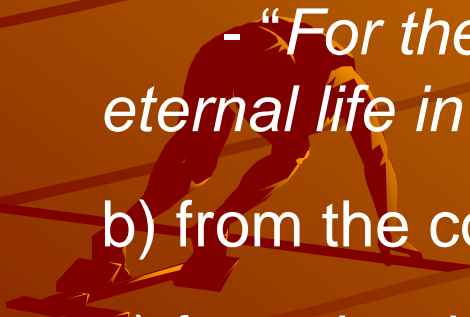
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1. Foundation

- something everything rests on
- 'by this gospel you are saved'
 - a) from the penalty of sin

- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom.6:23

- b) from the consequences of sin
- c) from the desire to live for self
- d) from Satan & his plan for destruction



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2. Of First Importance.....

a) Christ Died

- Matt. 27:45-54; Mark 15:33-39; Luke 23:44-48; John 19:28-42

- beaten, falsely accused, sentenced, crucified, pierced, pronounced dead

- wrapped in aprox. 100lbs of burial cloth & spices

b) For Our Sins

- our substitute – in our place, for our transgression

- lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world

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c) In Accordance with Scripture

- Isaiah 53:1-11 *“He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 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. 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. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*”

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“By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. 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. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”

- what was prophesied was fulfilled

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d) Buried

- Matt. 27:57–60

- placed in a grave, sealed with a stone, guarded

e) Raised from the Dead

- Jesus predicted this - Matt. 12:38–40; Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33–34; John 2:18–22

- Jesus appeared to many - John 20:17; John 20:20–28; Luke 24:36–43

- Jesus family and followers confirm - Acts 1:14; 12:17; 15:12–21; 21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7, Gal. 2:9; Jm. 1:1; Jude 1



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f) grace that cannot be ignored

- unmerited favor of God
- do not deserve, earn, expect, pay for
- transforming living relationship available through God's grace
- life altering, we respond to God's initiative

3. Death has No Grip – life eternal is ours

- vs 12-23 – this truth is essential
- we serve a living savior, look beyond fleeting days on earth to eternity together



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So What

1. Today remember the foundation of Your Faith

- God loved us and took action

- Jesus, God's Son, took your sin upon himself and died in your place. Humiliated, tortured, falsely accused, and killed for you.

- God's plan, revealed in scripture, evidenced in Jesus was effected from his love for you & desire for relationship

- the account is true – fully died, buried, brought back to life and testified to

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2. Today Remember the Reality of Grace

- did not deserve it, earn it, become worthy of it
- gift of God for mankind
- must be received, accepted, embraced
- will be transforming – never the same

3. Live with Eternity in View

- resurrection a reality
- what really matters – is worth living and dying for

