



Good News for a Sin Sick World.

Scripture | 1 Corinthians 15

There is good news. In NT Greek, gospel meaning good news often referred to victory on the battlefield. A herald would announce the news from the front lines. Early believers borrowed it to describe their mission. Yet, in Corinth, a group was spreading a false report. Christ did not really rise again but that does not matter. So, Paul again outlines the gospel to Corinth. It's priority one for him and us today. To deny the Resurrection of Christ and believers removes all hope from the good news.

Observation

Read 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 several times then practice some observation skills by noting the following:

- Circle 'preached' in v.1,2 and 'preach' in v.11.
- Underline 'received' and 'stand' in v.1.
- Underline 'being saved' and 'hold fast' in v.2.
- Bracket [if] indicating a condition in v.2.
- Underline 'delivered' and 'received' in v.3.
- Bracket [for] indicating a cause in v.3.
- Draw a box around 'Scriptures' in v.3,4.
- Number 1-4 : died, buried, raised, and appeared in vv.3-5 indicating Christ's activity.
- Double underline every time 'appeared' occurs in the passage.
- Underline 'persecuted' in v.9.
- Bracket [but...God] and [on the contrary] in v.10.
- Underline 'believed' in v.11.
- Now look back over your observations and answer the following:
 - What one word would describe the tone of the passage? (Joy, sadness, peace, etc.)
 - What idea stands out in these verses?
 - What idea or word do you not fully understand?
 - How would you summarize the meaning of the passage?



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15.1-11 | The gospel in which all believers stand is the good news about the event of the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

What does Paul say that he is going to remind of and emphasize to this problematic church in Corinth? Why would reminding a church with problems about the gospel be especially prudent?

What are the components of this concentrated form of the gospel that Paul highlights? What was the relationship of the believers in Corinth to these components? (vv1, 2, 11)

How was the relationship of the believers in Corinth to these components the same as Paul's relationship to the components? (v3) Why is our (and all believers everywhere at all times) relationship to them the same as Paul/ the Corinthians' relationship to them?

How does the gospel differ from the proclamation of the gospel? How is the gospel good news about an event?

What types of events can someone receive news about that changes their lives? Why does receiving the good news about the event of the resurrection of Jesus change peoples' lives?

Why did the Corinthians believe the news about the event if they were not there? Why do we?

What is the outcome of believing the good news about this event? How is someone's belief in the good news of the event of the resurrection of Jesus a work of God's grace? (v10)

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15.12-34 | Because Jesus' body was raised, the bodies of Jesus' followers will be raised.

In vv12-19, what misconception does Paul seem to be concerned about? (v12) What might the idea that the dead will not be raised say about what the Corinthians thought it meant to be a Spirit-enlivened follower of Jesus?

How can followers of Jesus go wrong in thinking about the importance of our bodies? What answers does Paul provide that makes the idea that our bodies will not be raised seem wrong?

In vv20-28 what does Paul say is the case instead? (v20) What word does Paul use that points out that Jesus' resurrection put in motion a cascade of events that will ultimately mean that the Corinthians and all believers will have a bodily resurrection as well? (vv20, 23)

What does it mean to be "in Adam" or "in Christ?" What difference does it make which one we are "in?"

What events inevitably follow because Jesus was resurrected? Why is the resurrection our victory in Jesus?

In vv29-34 how does Paul emphasize his intense commitment to the truth of the bodily resurrection of Jesus? What difference does Paul expect the resurrection to make for the Corinthians and for us as well? (vv33-34)

How can we say that because Jesus' body was raised, the bodies of Jesus' followers will be raised?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15.35-49 | Our resurrection bodies will be transformed like Jesus' resurrection body.

Why is the next question Paul answers a very reasonable and enduring question when it comes to the prospect of our bodily resurrection?

In vv35-41 what analogies does Paul use to explain the unexplainable?

In vv42-49 what contrasts does Paul give that help describe resurrection bodies?

In what sense will the resurrection bodies of believers be transformed like Jesus' resurrection body?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15.50-58 | Followers of Jesus must use their bodies for the Lord now, as they wait for their bodies to be victoriously changed in Christ.

How does Paul point the Corinthians to the ultimate end (purpose) of their hope? How is being a follower of Jesus always about a forward trajectory?

How are vv54-55 at once past, present, and future? Why is COVID 19 not the last word?

Why is the resurrection "our" victory? So what? (v58)

What are followers of Jesus to do with our bodies now while we wait for them to be transformed by Jesus?

Application

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. What difference does the resurrection of Christ make in your daily life? How is the resurrection framing your meaning and purpose in life right now?
3. What are the essential elements of the gospel? How are you going to remind yourself, beyond Easter, of the gospel—that which is of first importance?
4. How are we witnesses to Christ's resurrection?
5. How might remembering that Christ's death and resurrection has secured our eternal future give us confidence to live for Christ in the present? How might it give us confidence to share the gospel?

Prayer

1. Pray for God to move in the hearts of elected officials giving them wisdom and strength.
2. Pray people will be humbled and turn to the Lord in repentance and faith.
3. Ask the Lord to take all sickness away from FM families and humbly asking him to preserve the faithful (Dt. 7.15, Ps. 31.23).
4. Pray for Connor Kirby & Kaya Kirby as they adjust to a new baby in the home.
5. Pray that we would live with a keen awareness that Jesus is alive, and that this knowledge and belief would impact everything about the rest of our lives. Pray that we'd be steadfast during this trial, unmoved and busy with the Lord's work.

Afterword & Response

- **ABOUT GOD** | What does this passage specifically teach about God?

- **ABOUT MYSELF** | What does this passage teach about myself?


- **NEXT STEPS** | What does this passage lead me to do next in response?



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 972.539.0641