

THE GOSPEL IS AND MUST REMAIN THE MAIN THING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN PREACH IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

- “Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: 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.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- **Addressing cultural and personal issues is not a bad thing, but when they become the *main* thing we have lost our focus and misplaced our priorities.**
- **As Christians we should be a helping and healing voice in society for the *now*, but ONLY the gospel of Jesus can impact someone’s *now* AND their eternity.**

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST: JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS, HE WAS BURIED IN A BORROWED TOMB, HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

- “For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: 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.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- **The death of Jesus was purposeful, His burial was intentional, and His resurrection from the dead was the final display of God’s commitment to our salvation.**
- **The Gospel of Jesus was never meant to be hard to comprehend, because it is God’s desire that all people would be saved.**

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST OVERCOMES SCRUTINY

- “and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. 6 Then He appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, He also appeared to me.” (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)
- **There is no academic or historical explanation that could even be possible to explain away the death and resurrection of Jesus.**

- The evidence of Christ’s death and resurrection are overwhelming and would hold up in any court of law.

THE GOSPEL IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BECAUSE OF THE GRACE OF GOD

- “For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy 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 toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have believed.” (1 Cor. 15:9-11)
- **The beauty of the Gospel is that God offers us salvation in Christ because of who He is despite who we have been.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- According to verses 1–2, what does Paul say the gospel does in the life of a believer?
- In verses 3–4, what are the key elements of the gospel message that Paul emphasizes?
- What evidence does Paul give in verses 5–8 to support the resurrection of Jesus?
- How does Paul describe himself and God’s grace in verses 9–11?

Understanding

- Why do you think Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel instead of assuming they already fully understand it?
- How can churches or individuals unintentionally drift away from keeping the gospel as the “main thing”?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus strengthen your confidence in the truth of Christianity?
- Why is it important that the gospel is based on real historical events and not just ideas or feelings?
- Paul describes himself as unworthy, yet transformed by grace. How does his story encourage you in your own spiritual journey?
- Have you personally experienced God’s grace changing your life? In what ways?
- What does it look like in practical terms to “stand firm” in the gospel in your daily life?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?