

We come to a vital and important section of Scripture – Rooting people in first importance

- Taking people on a journey of ‘what’ to do...now he’s reminding them ‘why’
- We do a lot of stuff in the church...imagine how much stuff the church is doing right now
- Not just our church...every church – ministry – Outreach – Discipleship Opportunity
- Why are all churches: gathering – working – sending? Because Jesus Rose from the Dead

Big Idea - The Gospel is the foundation for everything that matters

Bodily resurrection, of Christ, brings us to the very center of the Christian faith | Lynch Pin

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you

believed Someone makes a claim...ask...prove it! Busted on camera

Paul’s day – Everyone held supernatural worldview...believed in life after death

- Greeks & Romans...not bodily resurrection | Body = prison for soul...set free at death
- Denying the reality of the resurrection remains a central problem in contemporary culture
- Conspiracy – Stolen or Displaced | Wrong Tomb – Lost | Apparent Death | Hallucination
- Christ’s death & resurrection...actual space & time...is a bona fide historical event

Today I’m going to give us four things the death and resurrection of Christ accomplishes

1. **The death and resurrection of Christ: Saves us from our sin (v1-2)**

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, - Paul is reminding them...again...of what? The gospel they’ve received...powerful

- Do you remember when you received the gospel? Single most powerful moment life
- Paul is reminding them...gifts are not the power...expression isn’t the power...resurrection
- Far too often we think the power of the church comes from our activity...no...Jesus Saving

Simple yet compelling truth: The Gospel if Believed Changes Lives

²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. – There are two difficult things to understand here

a. What does ‘being saved’ mean | b. What does it mean to believe in vain

One reception – Ongoing ‘being saved’ – UNFINISHED PEOPLE | Changed and Changing

- Two camps – Believed / believed in vain = Not Losing salvation...non-saving faith
- ‘Vain’ = Heedlessly or Rashly...without effect...worthless | All the confessions go nowhere
- Emotional or intellectual superficial human faith...accepts as ‘Get out of Hell’
 - Not penetrated into life – New Desires – New Striving – Patterns for Living = Vain
- If your faith hasn’t changes you then your faith hasn’t saved you | Gospel = transformation
- Peach – Trash Peach | INSIDE MATTERS | Believe in your heart...raised from dead

There is such power in the resurrection of Christ from the dead...raises you from dead

2. **The death and resurrection of Christ: Shows the truth of Scripture (v3-4)**

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Apostle says ‘First importance’ – Other things that are important...this is first

Christ’s death & resurrection inseparable – W/O latter...former has no eternal significance

Dead man doesn’t defeat death | Sin & Death had to be conquered...Jesus conquered...life

Why three day? God said! Is 52-53 | Ps. 16 – 22- 110 | Matt. 12:40 – 16:21 – 27:63 | Jn 2:19

"3 day" motif appears repeatedly in OT: anticipation, divine intervention, or transformation.

Jesus died Friday, Nisan 14...Passover lamb sacrificed...think about the symbolism

Everything in the Bible, thousands of years, building to this event!

Ever wondered if Jesus will really come back? Thousands of years...Messiah really come

According to the Scriptures...the Messiah would come...He came

According to the Scriptures the Messiah will return...He will

3. **The death and resurrection of Christ: Stands the test of history (v5-8)**

⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. - Resurrection is a historical fact – it can be proved by historical evidence – People saw it

- ‘Cephas’ – Peter | ‘Twelve’ | ‘James’ ½ brother | Paul | 500 other...+ Unmentioned women
- ‘Witness Testimony Matters’ Witness testimony, uncontradicted, produces conviction
- Stated as truth – Disciples not psychological or pathological...men of truthful integrity
- The resurrection of Christ had a profound impact on these men’s lives...can you too!
- Peter = Denied | James = Unbeliever | Paul = Hostile | Cowards to Courageous Martyrs
- Endurance of the church through 2000 years is evidence of His resurrection reality**
- If Jesus didn’t really rise from the grave then none of us are here today!**

- Church has survived skepticism, persecution, heresy, unfaithfulness, and disobedience
- Why? Because the what stands the test of time is the resurrection of Christ

4. **The death and resurrection of Christ: Settles our identity (v9-11)**

⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed

Jesus = living proof of the resurrection – Our revived souls are living proof of His mercy

‘Untimely Born’ – Private | Abnormal - unexpected – sudden – supernatural | Missed

- Explain Paul’s Conversion Acts Chapter 9 - ‘Persecuted the church of God’
 - First word of v. 10 = ‘But’ – Change of direction...who changed his direction? Jesus
- Past: Persecuted | Present – Apostle | How – Grace of God | Paul = Powerful Evidence**
- ‘least of the apostles’ – Acknowledges his inferiority...he had persecuted Christians
- Since Adam people have not been taking responsibility for their sin | Paul = how to respond
- He admitted the awfulness of his sin and recognized how gracious God has been
 - ‘and his grace toward me was not in vain.’ – Ultimate Pivot | Is God’s grace in vain?
- Hubris into Humility | If you make an excuse for you sin...your sins will not be excused**
- ‘I worked harder’ – Turns admission of weakness into opportunity magnify God’s grace
 - God’s grace did not lead to sloth but greater effort and substantial accomplishment
- Paul views the logical outcome of grace as a motivation for service
- Grace is powerful motivator – Rocket Fuel Christian – Have you given it? Displayed it?
 - ‘Whether then it was I or they’ – Apostles agree - Doesn’t matter who instrument is

God can make something beautiful with any tool in His hands

This is my life verse – I resonate with it...maybe you do too

The Gospel is the foundation for everything that matters

The resurrection is the foundation of the Gospel