

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

- Because Corinth was a Greek city that meant there was still a lot of Greek culture and traditions that still ran deep within the minds and hearts of the people there. One of the Greek traditions that was prominent within Greek society was the rejection of the resurrection of the dead. Remember when Paul preached in Athens to Athenian philosophers on Mars hill and spoke of Christ resurrection, scripture says they laughed at him and told him to go away > **Acts 17:32**.
- This skeptical attitude had crept into the church and began to spread amongst the believers there so Paul decides to meet this falsehood head on and declare in writing the truth of the resurrection from both a doctrinal and practical perspective. What's interesting is in Jewish culture many also didn't believe in a literal life after death > **Acts 23:8**- The Sadducees and Pharisees were split down the middle concerning the subject, as the Sadducees rejected it, but the Pharisees accepted it.

V1-11

- **V1-2** the gospel means “**good news**” and Paul declares how the gospel can be a benefit to man, but only if it is received and afterward the person will stand in it. Sometimes you may hear someone say of something they heard “**that's the gospel truth**” meaning you can trust it, well the best news that we can trust is that we can be saved from eternal punishment that we deserve because of what Jesus did for us
- **V3-8** Paul is now going to describe what the Corinthian Church has believed, and it contains four things that is so important when it comes to the gospel truth. **1. Communication**- its not enough for the good news to be available it also must be communicated > **Rom 10:14-15**- says how can they hear without a preacher!
- In this country the issue with the gospel is not the communication, as we have radio and television preachers, along with churches on every corner, so most have at least heard of the gospel, and have some sort of understanding that it has to do with the spiritual right! But where it gets confusing is in this second key part for the gospel.

- **2. Content-** he says I delivered or communicated to you first of all what I received myself, which is Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. This means it is not a story, fairy tale, a rumor, a legend or myth, this is real according to The Word.
- He was buried and rose again the third day, was seen by Peter (Cephas) the other disciples, James, the Apostles, and by over five hundred people at one time, many of which are still alive, last of all Paul includes himself as having seen Jesus even though he wasn't a part of the ministry because The Lord showed Himself to Paul on the road to Damascus and in giving him the gospel of grace **Acts 20:24, Gal 1:12.**
- Content is where people miss the good news, for they misrepresent what the gospel is by telling people the gospel or good news for salvation is to believe on The Lord Jesus that He died for your sins, and be baptized, in Jesus name, or speak in tongues, or pay your tithes, or join this ministry or group.
- That is not what we read here is it, the gospel is Jesus died for our sins and that He rose from the dead the third day, that is the gospel that we are to give to people as that is what Paul gave to the Corinthians, not baptism, or any other works in order to be saved. **Rom 10:9-11, 13-** no where do we read anything outside of believing right!
- **3. Reception-** Paul's job was to deliver the gospel, our responsibility is to receive the gospel, it doesn't do me any good to merely hear the gospel, or to know the gospel, or to be related to someone or friends with someone who accepts the gospel, what benefits me is to receive the gospel for myself.
- **V1** Paul said the gospel which "**you received, and wherein you stand**" it means to bring near, it's an intimate act, in which you've studied it, and learned it, and become so familiar with it, its now a part of you. The word "**stand**" means to continue regardless of what it costs, which is why we "**hold fast**" the Word which was preached to us, for it is a matter of life and death for the believer.
- **4. Proof V9-11-** Paul says he is the least of all the Apostles, understanding that because of his past where he persecuted and killed Christians, some of which were relatives of the very people who he now calls brothers and sisters in Christ. Yet he understands he is what he is by the grace of God, meaning it was God's choice to make him an Apostle, and to prove it just look at his lifestyle and decide if its true.

- Notice he doesn't labor more abundantly so that he can become saved, he labors more abundantly than they all because he is saved. I don't serve The Lord to be saved I serve The Lord because I am saved, and because of what He did for me it is the least I can do for Him. We don't judge other people's salvation what we judge is their fruit, and their fruit tell everyone whether or not they have surrendered to Jesus > **Math 7:15-20, 12:33**- you will know people by their actions not just their words.
- So I don't work to be saved, I work because I am saved > **Lk 7:44-47**- Simon a pharisee invited Jesus over to his house to try and discredit him, a woman who was so broken because of her sin shows up uninvited and breaks open the most expensive thing she possesses and uses it to wash his feet along with her tears and dries them with her hair, "**she who had been forgiven much loveth much**" amen!