

## **Week 2 | “The Whole Gospel Pt. 1”**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:36-15:1-2**
- B. Is the Gospel a style of music? Is it a style of music that comes mainly from the South (Southern Gospel)? Is it the type of sermon's we preach? Is a certain type of ministry that happens to others? Can we just show the Gospel, or do we have to preach the Gospel?

### **II. THE GOSPEL IN CORINTH**

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:1** “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the Gospel which I also preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand...”
- B. In the previous chapters (**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12-14**) Paul stepped into their worship service to correct a few things that were happening when they gathered together. But this correction, isn't so much about their practice, but their belief, or their lack thereof regarding the resurrection of the dead.
- C. This opening phrase, “Moreover” or “I make known to you” (ESV) is Paul continuing his thoughts from the previous chapter, mainly verse **37-38**, “...If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant (if anyone doesn't recognize this, he is not recognized ESV)...”
1. This is Paul saying, “*If you think your spiritual, but you reject my teaching, then your actually rejecting God, because I'm writing the commandments of God, not of Paul. You think you're so spiritual, having moved on to angelic talk, spiritual experiences in the Spirit, so much so that you no longer need a physical body, or the initial preaching about the Gospel that I brought to you, which included both Jesus' physical resurrection and your future resurrection, well, here you go. If you deny this, if you no longer hold fast to this, to the Gospel that I proclaimed to you, you're in jeopardy of losing whatever you think you have.*”
- D. What's interesting here in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15** is that Paul ISN'T opening with a defense about the resurrection of the dead, he's opening with a historical, apostolically agreed upon universal tradition of faith among them. He's not giving an angry message, or an angry defense, he's simply restating to them, something that he's already made known to them, the historical doctrine of the Gospel.
- E. Well, Paul rightly states in the first 2 verses, “...I DECLARE to you the Gospel, which I also PREACHED to you...which I PREACHED to you...” 3 times in 2 verse's Paul reminds them that the Gospel was declared or preached to them. This is because you can't show the Gospel, it has to be preached, the Gospel has to be proclaimed!
1. Why? Because the Gospel is about God's deeds, not ours. We can show our good works, and those good works can lead people to hear more about the Gospel, but the Gospel can't be shown, it has to be spoken/preached.
2. The Gospel is God's story, not ours. Just like the Bible is a book principally about God, not about you/man.

- F. What is the Gospel? The word Gospel comes from a Greek word, “*euangelion*” and it simply means Good News. It was used by doctors who came out and gave a good report, or shared, “*there’s nothing serious.*” It was also used during wartime, where people inside the city waited for the marathon runners to return with a report from the battlefield, as they brought the Gospel, the good news.
1. The Gospel in summary form is this; God fulfilled His promise to send His son to redeem fallen man, who left Him, though He didn’t leave them (*this is portion we are most familiar with*). But the Gospel is also about God rescuing His fallen creation, to restore His glory in creation/earth. And the Gospel is also about God ruling and reigning over all things with compassion and justice.
  2. Creation→ Fall→Redemption→Re-creation (This is the Gospel story)
- G. The Gospel isn’t simply an idea, a principle, or a perspective; it’s news, news that happened in history, news that revolves around a Person. Though it’s not stated here, it’s implied, that the Gospel declares Christ became a Man, to carry out God’s plan of redemption.
- H. The Gospel is intended to be the very thing that followers of Jesus build their lives around, on, in, and through. In the same way that the law was everything to Israel, the Gospel is to be everything to us.
1. If your life revolves around yourself, it will implode. Beloved, when we don’t work to make the Gospel the central thing that we build our lives upon, we will seek to do it through many other things; our jobs, our family, our hobbies, our children, the blessings of financial prosperity, a future retirement, a promised opportunity, or deeper spiritual truth.
  2. Your job might fall through, your family might leave you, you may no longer be able to do your hobby, you might lose a child, that future of hopeful financial prosperity may never come, and your retirement might vanish, and if and when they do, NONE OF IT CAN SAVE YOU! NONE OF IT CAN REDEEM YOU! NONE OF IT CAN DIE ON YOUR BEHALF! NONE OF IT CAN RESURRECT YOU!
- I. The Gospel is something that we have to get right, get straight, get clear, because this is the crux of our faith, not a Gospel that found only in the New Testament, but the Gospel that’s found in the both the Old and New Testament, and its apex in Christ
1. **Hebrews 1:1-4**

### III. CONCLUSION

- A. Paul’s opening line to the Corinthian Church in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15** is serving as a mild rebuke. To a people that seem to be more spiritual than Paul, and have moved onto bigger and better things, and no longer seemingly need the Gospel, Paul is bringing them back to square 1, back to the start, back to the foundation of their life in Christ?
1. Why? Because the resurrection of the dead, is central to the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus!
- B. Beloved, this is a massive testimony to how God feels about the Gospel and its importance in our lives, not as something that ALREADY HAPPNED, but also as something that’s currently happening, and will still yet happen!
- C. Paul was with these guys for 18 months, and then writes this letter some 4 years later, and he’s still preaching the Gospel to them.

- D. We don’t move away from the Gospel, we don’t ever get to a place where we simply don’t need the Gospel, or now have something more than the Gospel. There is nothing more!
- E. Paul opens **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians** stating his passion that they might be blameless until the Day of Christ, and that this would happen through the Gospel;
  - 1. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:4-9, 17**
- F. But if they move away from the Gospel, they are moving away from Christ, and if they deny the resurrection, they are still in their sins, because Christ is still dead, and if Christ is dead, then their faith is futile (*in vain, worthless, meaningless*).
- G. Beloved, the Gospel is ground zero for the Church! The Gospel, and Good News has to be nailed down in your life, you gotta put the screws into it! This is the battle ground, both historically, and present day!
  - 1. Do you believe the Gospel? Are you still believing (trusting) in the Gospel? Are you allowing the Gospel to work in you?