

Knowing the Truth and Believing in the Truth

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

The Risen Christ, Faith's Reality

15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are **saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1. The Truth is you are saved if you have received the Gospel of Jesus.

³ For **I delivered to you** first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

2. The Truth is you are a messenger of Jesus if you received the Gospel of Jesus.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am 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; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. ¹¹ Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

3. The Truth is by the grace of God you are what you received. So labor abundantly.

The Risen Christ, Our Hope

¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false

witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

The Last Enemy Destroyed

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- 4. The Truth is that Jesus is alive and that He paid the price for those who have gone on before us, those of us presently, and for those of us in the future if they receive the Gospel that we delivered.**