



“Witness the Resurrection!”

1 Corinthians Chapter 15

(v1-2) Preach the GOSPEL!

- **The GOSPEL is “preached”** - If we are going to preach the gospel, what is it? The joyous good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Greek word translated as **gospel** means "a reward for bringing good news" or simply "good news." In Isaiah 40:9, the prophet proclaimed the "good tidings" that God would rescue His people from captivity. In His first sermon in Nazareth, Jesus used a passage from the Old Testament to characterize the spirit of His ministry: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor"* (Luke 4:18).

- **By the GOSPEL we are “saved”** - The gospel is not a new plan of salvation; it is the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation which was begun in Israel, was completed in Jesus Christ, and is made known by the church. The gospel is the saving work of God in His Son Jesus Christ and a call to faith in Him (Romans 1:16-17). Jesus is more than a messenger of the gospel; He is the gospel. The good news of God was present in His life, teaching, and atoning death. Therefore, the gospel is both a historical event and a personal relationship.

- **We must “hold fast” to the GOSPEL** – The truly justified and righteous not only are saved by faith but continue to *“live by faith”* (Heb. 10:38).

(v3-8) Proclaim the EVIDENCE!

- **Christ’s “death & resurrection” was “according to the Scriptures”** - **Tim Lahaye** in his book, *Jesus Who Is He*, writes, “Did you know that the death of Jesus Christ fulfilled more than 456 messianic prophecies. The mathematical odds of ANY ONE person fulfilling just 10 of these prophecies is equivalent to "covering the state of Texas one foot thick with silver dollars, then flying over the state in a helicopter and, while blindfolded, reaching into that pile of loot and picking up a single marked coin The fact that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies defies human manipulation. Only ONE man in the HISTORY of the world could have died like Jesus. The literal fulfillment of these prophecies is NO COINCIDENCE! God knows our future and he wrote these details in advance so that the world could identify the Messiah when he came. If you are thinking that maybe Jesus carefully arranged his life to fit the scriptures. You must consider the fact that most of the prophecies and their fulfillment were out of his control. You cannot arrange your family tree, nor your birthplace, and most of the prophecy fulfillments were carried out by his ENEMIES! The EVIDENCE is OVERWHELMING!!! The mathematical odds of the prophets correctly guessing 17 specific prophecies are: 1 chance in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion! With these odds against you, would you bet against them! Please don't bet your life and your eternal future on the "chance" that these fulfilled prophecies are not reliable. There is more than ample evidence to base your faith on and your eternal security!”

(v9-11) Paul describes himself as "a Hebrew of the Hebrews" (Philippians 3:5), and confirmed by Paul's statement in Acts 22:3 that, while he was born in Tarsus, he was brought up in Jerusalem *"at the feet of Gamaliel,"* the most illustrious rabbi of his day

(Acts 5:34). Luke told how Paul publicly associated himself with Stephen's executioners and then embarked on a campaign designed to suppress the church. Paul himself related how he "*persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it*" (Galatians 1:13). Yet, by "grace" he was saved and by "grace" he preached the gospel!

(v12-19) Watch out for SKEPTICS!

- "*How do some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?*" – If that be the case then (1) then Christ is not risen; (2) the preaching and our faith would be empty and futile; (3) we would be false witnesses of God; (4) we would still be in our "SINS"; (5) those who have died have perished; (6) and we would all be hopeless!

(v20-28) Believe in CHRIST RESURRECTION!

(v20) **Here's hope!** – Christ is **RISEN** from the dead; He is the **FIRSTFRUITS** of those who have died. One commentator writes, "As the Lamb of God, Jesus died on Passover. As the sheaf of first-fruits, He arose from the dead three days later on the first day of the week. When the priest waved the sheaf of the first-fruits before the Lord, it was a sign that the entire harvest belonged to Him. When Jesus was raised from the dead, it was God's assurance to us that we shall also be raised one day as part of that future harvest of believers, death is only "sleep." The body sleeps, but the soul is at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21-23). At the resurrection, the body will be. "awakened" and glorified."

(v29-34) Believer be SANCTIFIED!

(v29) **Why baptize if the dead do not rise?** This passage is written in context of Paul's defense against those who said, "*how do some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?*" The context and meaning here is NOT teaching that we are to have "proxy baptisms" for the dead, whereas to save them. An individual cannot be saved after death. What Paul is saying here is if there is no resurrection, then why are we baptizing. Baptism identifies with the death and resurrection of Christ and symbolizes this event in the life of the believer through water baptism.

- **Beware of false teachings** - By pulling this passage out of context Mormons have created a false doctrine that teaches that living Mormon family members can proxy baptize for relatives that are dead to get them to Mormon heaven, this is why they have created extensive family tree research centers.

- **What does the Bible teach about life after death?** In Hebrews 9:27, "*and as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*" Jesus shares about life after death in historical event **Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31**. This also debunks the Catholic teaching of purgatory.

(v30-34) **Paul says, "I die daily" he shares his perils in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12** - *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in*

our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

- **Bad company corrupts good morals, awake to righteousness** (2 Cor. 6:11-18; Eph. 5:3-17).

(v35-41) **Celestial** means *heavenly*. **Terrestrial** speaks of *earthly*.

(v42-44) Our earthly body will go from *corruption to incorruption*, from *dishonor to glory*, from *weakness to power*, from *natural to spiritual*.

(v45-50) **We are living beings, made of the dust, but in Jesus Christ we receive a spiritual life and ultimately a heavenly image. Philippians 3:20-21 - *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.***

(v51-58) The Believers Assurance!

(v51) **“a mystery”** - In the New Testament, mystery refers to a secret that is revealed by God to His servants through His Spirit. The word **“changed”** is *to be transformed*.

(v52-53) **“in a moment”** in Greek is *atomoo*, which means *in an atom of time*. **“In a twinkling of an eye,”** how fast is a twinkle, it is faster than a winkle. FYI – Light travels at a 186,000 miles per second. It takes 1.5 seconds for light to travel from earth to the moon; a twinkle is one foot from earth at the speed of light. **“we shall be raised incorruptible”** – without decay, **“immortal”** – speaks of deathlessness. (Gen. 5:24; Mt. 24:36-42; 25:1-13; John 14:1-3; 1Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 3:7-13)

(v54-58) VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! BELOVED BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF LORD!

1 Corinthians Chapter 16 – “Be Brave! Be Strong!”

(v1-4) WATCH your STEWARDSHP!

(v1-2) Here Paul makes a request for a special offering for believers in Jerusalem (**CHARITY**), this may be due to the famine which hit the region according to Acts 11:27-30; and another probability may be that Jewish believers may have lost their employment as they converted to Christianity. Notice the offering is to be received on the “first day of the week” (Sunday). The inference on their giving is to be with **REGULARITY**, so that there is no special offering taken when Paul arrives.

(v3-4) In these verses Paul desires **ACCOUNTIBILITY** for the offering that will be going to Jerusalem.

- **F.Y.I.** - A good Christian steward knows that God has given them everything and that everything belongs to God. Prayer, obedience, wisdom, knowledge, and faith are the key elements to fiscal responsibility before God and one another. We do not give financially to God because we must; Christians give because they want to! In the Old Testament we find the example of the tithe (10%) with Abraham (Gen. 14:18-20); Jacob (Gen. 28:20-22); and the Mosaic Law (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21; Deut. 14:28-29). In Proverbs we read, *“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”* (**Proverbs 3:9-10**) In the New Testament the tithe is an example of giving, but not the rule, for we read in **2 Corinthians 9:7-8** - *“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”*

(v5-9) STAND FAST in the FAITH!

- **Three keys to standing fast in the FAITH:**

#1 – Paul had **FAITH** that **WORSHIPS!** (Waits on God’s will, “if the Lord permits”)

#2 – Paul had **FAITH** that **WORKS!** (Sees the “open and effective door”)

#3 – Paul had **FAITH** that goes to **WAR!** (Spiritually recognizes the “adversaries”)

(v10-13) BE BRAVE one and ALL!

- When Timothy comes see that he may be with you *without fear* – Paul wrote to Timothy and told all of us in **2 Timothy 1:7** - *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

(v14-23) BE STRONG in LOVE!

- **Be STRONG:**

(v14) In **LOVE**

(v15) In **MINISTRY** (serve one another)

(v16) In **SUBMISSION**

(v17) In **SUPPLY**

(v18) In **REFRESHING & ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Conclusion: (v19-24) Paul’s farewell – Final greetings, love, exhortation, & **MARANAHA!**