

v1-11I. **THE RISEN CHRIST GOSPEL**

v1-2 **A. Paul Redeclares The Gospel**

v1a **1. “Moreover brethren** most importantly. Above all this **“I declare to you the gospel”** (above what? Since Ch 12 he’s been dealing with spiritual gifts)

a. Keep the main thing the main thing. The gospel. That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son
(Jn3:16)

b. It’s what was ***“preached”*** to you

c. It’s what you eventually believed in.

2. And it’s **“in which you now stand”**. The Word stand in the Greek means to cause or make to stand. To place or put; to set. To make firm, fix or establish.

a. What Paul was reminding the Corinthians is what had caused them to stand thus far.

i. The Gospel. That Good news that was preached to them at the first.

ii. Is that a reminder for us?

b. Your gifting is not what’s causing you to stand. Your identity is not in your gift or your calling. Your identity starts and stands in the daily need of God’s grace. Found in the gospel.

i. (Who you are is in the gospel)

c. **Rom 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

v2

3. Not only is this how you stand but **"by which also you were saved"**.

a. Your salvation is not based on any performance of your own. **Eph 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

v2b

4. In these opening 2 verses Paul is just setting a little reminder to keep the main thing the main thing but also an exhortation to **"hold fast that word which was preached"** to them. **"Unless you believed in vain."**

a. Hold Fast! Wait a minute, we've just read scripture that says we are saved by grace through faith apart from works. But now we've just read Paul say your saved **"if you hold fast"** that sounds like works. Which is it? Is this some contradiction? No!

b. Remember there were some questions or doubts concerning resurrection. (see vs 12)

c. The resurrection is central to the gospel. Without it we have no gospel. We have no faith, we have no salvation.

d. Here what he's saying is don't let go of that word preached to you.

i. It's not works. It's part of abiding in the vine.

ii. **John 15:1-4** "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear

more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

iii. Abide (Meno) remain in a given place. Not to depart not to leave.

e. So there's **Gods Sovereignty** in salvation in that God knows those who would be saved and chooses whom He wills, and there's **man's freewill and responsibility** to except God's call (Romans 10:11 *"whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"*)

i. They go hand and hand

ii. Spurgeon said "You don't have to reconcile friends"

iii. Go to Phil 2:12-13. Here is a practical passage in which we can observe these two friends side by side.

f. So Paul is simply saying hold fast to that message. Don't let go of the full gospel. And that not only includes but stands on the resurrection.

v3-4

B. Paul Delivered What Was Given To Him

Paul says, look the message I've given you is exactly what was given me directly.

1. That Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the 3rd day.

v3

2. When Paul says **"for I delivered to you fist of all that which I received "** he's not saying it's information that was taught to him by another man. "That which he received" was through Jesus Christ Himself.

v3b-4

- a. We know this by going to Galatians 1:11-12
- b. So the gospel message that preaches Jesus died was buried and rose again was given to Paul directly from the risen Jesus Christ.

4. But not only is Paul talking about first hand knowledge of this but look what he's emphasizing **"that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures"**

- a. Not only is this message given to us by first hand account by those who've seen Him but what makes it even more powerful is that Jesus' life and death and resurrection was foretold way before He had ever been born.

- i. **Isa 42:8-9** "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols. 9 Everything I prophesied has come true, and now I will prophesy again. I will tell you the future before it happens." *NLT*

Isa 46:9-10 Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. 10 Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. *NLT*

- b. That He would die for your sins foretold in Ps 22 (vs 15). I'd like to take some time showing you places where Paul may have been referring to. **Go to Ps 22; Go to Is 53**

- c. But what about the Messiah rising on the 3rd day? Is that foretold in the O.T.? Jesus points to the story of Jonah in Matt 12:38 to tell us that Just like Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth.

- d. Jesus also said **Mark 10:33-34** "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to

the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; 34 and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

5. So Jesus' death & resurrection were prophesied or foretold in scripture but all of that means nothing if there isn't any physical proof that He rose. (read vs5-7)

v5-7

C. Eye Witness Account Of His Resurrection

Paul now goes from the 1st hand account message preached, to the prophecies foretold in the scriptures to now bringing up the resurrected Jesus seen be witnesses.

v5

1. "and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve"

a. *Cephas* - Peter.

b. So the Lord had revealed Himself to Peter. In real bodily form! Remember in Lk's account he mentioned how they all were afraid thinking they had seen a spirit but Jesus says "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." (then He asked them for food)

c. Peter. Remember he was the disciple that said "all though all would be made to stumble over you, I will never stumble Lord"

i. Jesus said you will deny me before the cock crows 3xs.

ii. Then he's humiliated. He denies Jesus that night.

iii. Jesus knew he needed a private intimate revelation of the risen Savior.

iv. We're not told much about it. (It's private) but we are told in Lk 24:34 that Jesus appeared to Peter before the 11. Does this speak to you?

2. **"Then He was seen by the 12"** Obviously one missing but they were still commonly referred to as the 12.

v6

3. But then He was seen by over 500 brethren at once.

a. If we gave 15 minutes to every one of those 500 people to tell their story about seeing Jesus risen, we'd be listening to 125 hours of testimony. About 5 ½ days of eye witness account.

V8-11

D. **Paul's Humble Eye Witness Account**

1. **"For I am the least of the apostles, who am not even worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."**

a. (Paul) "I know I'm forgiven, and I don't let it hinder me but it keeps me humble."

2. **"But by the grace of God I am what I am"**

3. **"and His grace toward me was not in vain"**