



1

The Full Gospel

15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

2

The Gospel – Of First Importance

- Why is it important?
 - “Which you received, in which you stand, by which you are being saved”
 - Past and Present (“received”; “being saved”)
- Where does this message come from?
 - I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received

3

The Content of the Gospel

- “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures”
 - “You, who were dead in your trespasses...God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Col 2:13-14)
 - Isaiah 53
- “He was buried”
 - His death was a REAL death – not only the appearance of death
- “He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures”
 - Rom 8:11
 - God is not making bad people good, but dead people alive

4

The Undermining of the Gospel

- There are people saying there is no resurrection
 - Does this matter?
 - How important is the resurrection for our faith?

5

¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:13-19

- **Without the resurrection:**
 - Faith is emptied of substance and becomes futile
 - We misrepresent God
 - Our sins remain

6

“In Christ”

- Paul uses this language throughout his letters (see esp. Ephesians)
 - God “has blessed us *in Christ* with every spiritual blessing”
 - God has “raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places *in Christ Jesus*”
- If no resurrection, humanity has not been transformed
 - Death still reigns
 - Our hope is in the transformation of humanity (perishable → imperishable)

7

BUT, he has been raised...

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

- Christ the Firstfruits (there will be more)
- Feast of Firstfruits (Thanksgiving → Expectation)
- Two “root stocks”

8

How is the Resurrection Possible?

³⁵ But someone will ask, “**How** are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”

- The metaphor of seeds
 - Transformation through death
 - One body sown, another reaped in the harvest
- Different kinds of bodies (v. 39)
 - Human, animals of the earth, birds, fish, heavenly vs. earthly
 - E.g. Jesus’ resurrected body

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The Resurrection of the Dead

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

10

Resurrection as Transformation

- Transformation
 - Perishable → Imperishable
 - Dishonor → Glory
 - Weakness → Power
 - Natural → Spiritual
 - Earthly origination → Heavenly origination
 - Image of Adam (man of dust) → Image of Christ (man of heaven)

- How?
 - Union with Christ
 - Iron in the Fire

11

Resurrection as Necessary

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ **For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality**. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

12

The Gospel – Of First Importance

- What is the gospel that Paul received and that he also delivered?