

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“Gospel for Life”

Pastor Bruce Zachary

Intro. All of us want the good life. We want to find something that can satisfy. We yearn to be whole and be able to rest our mind, body and soul. We want our loved ones to share that experience and have hope. Well today my friends we have some good news for you ... great news! Today you will find what you are looking for...

Subject: The Great News of Jesus Christ

Object: Experience life in Christ

I. The gospel is great news [1-3]: 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. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins [3] The Greek term translated “gospel” [1] referred to any good news. Since Jesus’ resurrection it now refers to *the* good news.

A. The great news is that Jesus saves [2]: What does Jesus save you from?

1. Jesus saves you from the penalty for your sins against God: All of us have sinned against an all-holy, pure, perfect, and righteous God [Rom. 3:23]. No one gets perfect scores on all the tests and quizzes of life. And if you had to be perfect to graduate then no one would graduate. The bad news is that each of us deserve God’s eternal judgment. Imagine going to the dentist, and she starts to drill, and you don’t have any pain-killer and it never ends. God’s judgment would be a billion times worse than that! Jesus died for our sins [3]. Jesus was a sacrifice for our sins. He took the penalty we deserved. Because of what Jesus did on the cross we can spend eternity with God. Imagine going to Disneyland with your friends, and you’re the only people there. And you get to go on all the rides you want, as many times as you want, there are no lines, and eat all you want and it’s all free! Life with God is a billion times better!

2. Jesus saves you to the True and Living God:

a. Life: Eternal life [Jn. 11:25-26]: is the spiritual life that you can experience with God through Christ today and every day forever. Death is defeated [1Cor. 15:54-58]. This life gives **purpose** that transcends the vain pursuit of pleasure that never satisfies. Those who live for God discover real satisfaction. Life with Christ produces **peace**. When you’re at peace with God there is rest for your soul. Then confident trust in God provides peace for your mind and body too. This life gives **hope** because you grow to appreciate that difficult seasons are brief compared to eternity; and that God has everything under control and is working your greatest good.

b. Love: [Jn. 13:34-35]: God's love is pure, unconditional, committed and truly perfect. God proves His love by sending His only Son to be a sacrifice for our sin, while we were still enemies with God [Rom. 5:6-10]. His love provides restoration and forgiveness for our guilt and shame. As we receive and grow in His love we learn to respond and show that love to God, our loved ones, our neighbors, and enemies.

c. Liberty: [Jn. 8:31-32]: Before I came to faith in Christ, I thought real freedom was doing whatever I wanted to do. I wanted to be the boss of my life (essentially making me god of my life). But I wasn't free. Everything that a life apart from God told me would make me happy never satisfied. Recently a group of pastors at our church went to an "escape room" teambuilding event. There were countless "wrong" clues that were a distraction but didn't get you out of the room. You waste time energy and emotion chasing the wrong clues thinking you'll find freedom but you're stuck. Then they give help to discover the way out. That's what God does. He shows you the way that will give you the freedom that you yearn for in Christ. Not freedom from God that creates bondage, but freedom to worship your Creator that will satisfy + set you free.

B. How you are saved [1-3]: Salvation is a gift from God. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ [Eph. 2:8-9]. But we must receive Christ [1]. And we are to stand [1] and hold fast to the gospel [2]. You receive salvation when you choose to submit your will to Jesus and decide to deny self and follow Him [Lu. 9:23]. A follower of Christ has a compelling desire to know Jesus, His teachings and live them.

C. How you can be sure it is true [3-4]: 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... OT prophecies [Gen 22, Ex.12, Is. 53, Ps. 16, Ps 22]. Eyewitnesses (5-8), transformed lives, martyrs, missing body, etc. are evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. The resurrection proves that Jesus' sacrifice was accepted by the Father.