

## The Corinthian Epistles

### Chapter 15 Part 1

#### The Resurrection of Christ

**1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

**2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

**3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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 of Cephas, then of the twelve:

**6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

**7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

**8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

**9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet 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 which was bestowed upon 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* were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

- **As we look at chapter 15 let's settle in our hearts and minds that we are a people with hope.**

- Christ is our hope.
- Christ is our resurrection
- Christ is our life
- Paul is dealing with folks who are believing things that are simply not true
- Let's look at truth and embrace it!

**1** Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

**2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

- We ought to know what the Gospel is
  - **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
  - 17** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
  - If we have been justified by the gospel...
    - We have to trust it no matter what we hear
    - We have to trust it no matter how we feel
  - Living by faith is having confidence in God's person and power regardless of personal perception
- If you have believed in vain...
  - This means your belief isn't/wasn't real
  - You may have had a feeling or strong emotion
  - But faith is not about a feeling or emotion

- Faith is deciding that something is absolutely true regardless of what you see, hear, or feel

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- Observational evidence has been professed
  - Jesus did die on the Cross at calvary
  - He did this to be the demanded sacrifice for the sins of God's creation
  - He fulfilled the law
  - He kept God's Word
  - He completed all prophecies foretelling of God's salvation to mankind
  - He was buried in a borrowed grave and stayed there for three days, just as scripture prophesied
  - He walked out of that very grave as flesh and bone
  - Peter, John, James, Mary, Joanna, and many others witnessed Jesus walking, talking...eating...all the things dead people cannot do
  - Over 500 people witnessed Jesus' resurrected body
  - Many are still around to testify of these FACTS today (says Paul to the church)
  - Jesus' own half-brother and the pastor of the church at Jerusalem witnessed Jesus Christ resurrected

- These are facts that we today will either accept on faith or reject
  - We don't have people we can go to who physically witnessed the Lord's resurrected body
  - We have God's Word and the word of those servants of God

**8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

- Paul says, "oh, by the way, I saw Him too"
  - Christ made a special appearance to me
  - I saw His scars and knew they were for me

**9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet 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 which was *bestowed* upon 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* were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

- Paul felt unworthy, but believed
  - His faith in a resurrected Christ changed his life completely
  - He was a pharisee
  - He was a murderer
  - He was a non-believer
  - He is what he is because...
    - Christ's grace
    - It has purpose

- Grace gave Paul purpose
- We can believe or not...it won't change what is truth
  - But if we believe the truth, the truth will change us