

I Corinthians 15:1-11 **The Centrality of the Gospel**

Introduction:

This chapter invites us to meet Jesus Christ. There is a famous movie, “Meet Joe Black” The movie is about a man who came back from the dead in a resurrected body and could even grant life to someone whose time for death had come. He has an after death connects with a beautiful young woman. The movie espouses the kind of life after death that all non-Christians long for, no such thing as judgment, no punishment, for sin; no pain no such thing as lostness forever. This kind of movie dulls ones conscience about the Christian’s message of eternal judgment for those who reject Jesus Christ. It is the fantasy world with which the devil captivates men’s minds and hearts.

The gospel urges us to repent of our sins and turn unto Christ who only can save us through His atoning death on the cross. He alone can give us eternal life.

I. Evidence of Christ’s Death – v.1-4a

A. The heart of the Christian gospel

1. The mindset of some Corinthians – v.12
2. Paul made known the gospel
3. The means Christ uses to bring us to salvation – various tenses (have been saved, being saved,) I Cor. 1:18; II Cor. 2:15; Rom. 8:23

B. Conditional Clause – v.2

1. A profession without the demands of Christ’s Lordship
2. Where did this gospel come from? V.3 cf. (1 Cor. 11:23-f)

C. Content of the Gospel:

1. Christ died for our sins – v.3 (preposition “for” is “in our place,” (Heb. 9:12; I Pet. 1:19)
2. According to the Scriptures –v.3 (Isaiah 53:3-12; Psa. 22:1; I Pet. 3:18)
3. Christ was buried – v.4 (John 19:30; Mark 15:44)

II. Evidence of Christ’s Resurrection –v. 4b - 11

A. Raised on the third day -

1. “Raised” is passive voice indicating His Father raised him up.
2. The whole Godhead was involved in the resurrection of Christ – John 10:17-18; Rom. 8:11)

B. Old Testament Evidence

1. Hosea 6:2
2. Jonah 1:17; Matt. 12:40; Luke 11:29,30
3. Mal. 3:1-3 cf. John 2:18-22 “the temple of His body”
4. Psalm 16:10 – Peter’s interpretation – Acts 2:24-32

C. Witnesses:

1. Peter – Luke 24:34
2. The twelve –
3. Five Hundred brethren – (I Thess. 4:13 f)
4. James – Gal. 1:8 f.; John 7:5; Act. 1:14
5. Paul – I Tim. 1:15 “untimely born” v.8 Gk. “aborted child”

Conclusion:

1. *Although Christ Himself in His resurrected state has not appeared to us in person. Remember Thomas’s rebuke – John 20:29, we sense the reality of the resurrected Christ by the ministry of the Holy Spirit – John 16:12-15*
2. *All success of our labors in the church have been initiated by the grace of God –v.10*
3. *Where Paul is commissioned as an Apostle to establish churches and to write two thirds of the New Testament, we too are commissioned to teach and be witnesses of the gospel as we come in contact with others through God’s providence.*

