

## *The Gospel (1 Cor 15:1-11)*

### I. Introduction

- A. Paul preaches the Gospel in Athens (Acts 17:16-34)
  - 1. Why Greeks mocked the resurrection of the body
- B. The good news about death
- C. Pray
- D. Review: Disordered worship is rooted in disordered belief
- E. Reading the text

### II. What is the Gospel?

- A. What all agree that a Christian must believe in order to be saved
- B. What the Gospel is NOT
  - 1. *you can be forgiven of your sin*
  - 2. *you have a God-shaped hole in your heart that only Jesus can fill*
  - 3. *God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life*
  - 4. *Transforming the culture*
  - 5. *Ushering in the kingdom*
  - 6. *God's unconditional love (or life-enhancement)*
  - 7. *Jesus provides the moral example for us to follow*
- C. **1 Corinthians 15:1-2**
  - 1. The Gospel is **preached** (Rom 10:14-17)
  - 2. The Gospel is **received** (believed) (Rom 10:9-10)
  - 3. The Gospel is something we **stand** in at present
  - 4. The Gospel is something that is *continually saving us*
    - a. Assurance vs. Presumption
    - b. Examine yourself to be sure that you are in the faith
    - c. Many will say, "*Lord, Lord ...*" Do not be deceived!
- D. **1 Corinthians 15:3-5** – the Gospel in summary "*of first importance*"
  - 1. *Christ died for our sin*
    - a. Romans 5:6,8
    - b. a substitutionary atonement
    - c. we must know that we are sinners to be saved from sin
  - 2. *according to the Scriptures*
    - a. Isaiah 53 & the entire message of the Old Testament
  - 3. *He was buried*
    - a. confirms His death and sets up the resurrection
  - 4. *He was raised on the third day*
    - a. this was a physical, bodily resurrection
  - 5. *He appeared to Cephas and then the Twelve*
    - a. The resurrection is verifiable by eye witnesses
- E. Out of the fog – **the Gospel message**: *The grace of God has acted decisively to save us from our sin, through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, who bore God's punishment in our place. Christ's perfect sacrifice based upon His sinless life was then vindicated in His resurrection on the third day, which was attested to by many witnesses.*

**III. 1 Corinthians 15:6-11**

- A. The additional witnesses to the resurrection
  - 1. Five hundred brothers most of whom are still living
  - 2. James the brother of Jesus
  - 3. Paul himself was a witness of the risen Christ on the Damascus Road (not a vision)
- B. Paul is saved by grace, and he is an apostle by grace
- C. The Gospel is apostolic (apostles teaching)

**IV. Application**

- A. The proper use of this passage. Not meant as an apologetic to defend the resurrection among unbelievers.
- B. Preach the Gospel to both believers and unbelievers, as it is in the Gospel that we are being saved.
- C. Proclaim the resurrection as one who is confidently convinced of its reality
- D. Your future glorified body is your ultimate end – settle for nothing less!

Job 19:26

*And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God !*