

**Subject: *The Resurrection of Christ and Christians – Part 1***

**Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:1-11***

The word “gospel” means good news. It refers to God’s good news about Jesus and salvation provided through Him. We live in a world of news and most of it is bad news. We long to hear good news. The Gospel is the best news ever, the news about Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. This chapter is all about the resurrection: the resurrection of Christ and of all who belong to Christ. This first message is about the evidence of Christ’s resurrection. Everything else rests on that solid foundation.

### **1. Confidence in the Gospel (vs. 1-2)**

Paul begins this chapter declaring the gospel once again. It was the same message that changed his life and the lives of so many other people.

A. The Gospel is a message to preach

B. The Gospel is a treasure to receive

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

C. The Gospel is a foundation to stand upon

D. The Gospel is the power of salvation

**Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

E. The Gospel is a message to believe

We first hear it and know it, then we believe it, and we keep on believing. Verse 12 describes true faith (keep in memory, hold fast) in contrast to superficial faith (“believed in vain”). True faith keeps on believing. Superficial faith is “in vain” (good for nothing). True faith has persistence, perseverance, staying power. How can we know if our faith is the right kind of faith? The evidence of saving faith is a pattern of fruit and good works. Our life will show it.

The NT speaks of the gospel in a way that describes its benefits.

- The gospel of God’s grace
- The gospel of salvation
- The gospel of peace
- The gospel of hope

It is the gospel worth dying for. There is only one true gospel and that is the gospel of Christ. Any other gospel is a false gospel.

### **2. Content of the Gospel (vs. 3-4)**

Paul is referring here to the subject matter of the gospel. The gospel message has not changed. We need to understand it, believe it, and share it.

- A. Christ died for our sins as prophesied in OT Scripture
- B. Christ was buried (to prove the reality of His death)
- C. Christ rose again the third day as prophesied in OT Scripture

The birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ were all rooted in the OT. The OT predicted that Christ would come. He entered this world exactly as God said He would.

**Isaiah 7:14** *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

The OT predicted that Christ would die in the place of sinners as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He died on the cross exactly as God said He would.

**Isaiah 53:6** *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

The OT predicted that Christ would rise again from the dead to prove that He was God's perfect Son and that His sacrifice was sufficient to atone for our sins. He rose exactly as God said He would.

**Job 19:25-26** *For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.*

**Psalms 16:10** *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

**Acts 2:23-27** <sup>23</sup> *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: <sup>24</sup> Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. <sup>25</sup> For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: <sup>26</sup> Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: <sup>27</sup> Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

The Gospel is rooted in the OT and fulfilled in the NT. It is the most important message of all history. This is God's good news for the world, the good news that Christ came, He died, He was buried, and He rose to save sinners from their sins.

Jesus also prophesied His own resurrection. He gave only one sign to confirm His identity as Messiah, the sign of the prophet Jonah. He said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it in three days." He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." He said, "I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again."

### **3. Confirmation of the Gospel (vs. 5-10)**

The resurrection of Christ is one of the best established facts of ancient history. It has been said that the hallmark of the Christian faith is certainty. After Christ rose from the dead He remained

on earth forty days to prove beyond any doubt that He was alive. This is what Josh McDowell called “Evidence that Demands a Verdict.”

From what Paul wrote in this chapter we can assume that some people either inside or outside the church were undermining the gospel by denying a literal physical resurrection of the body. The church still believed in Christ’s resurrection, but Paul is writing to reinforce their faith and to assure them of the resurrection of all believers.

**Acts 1:1-3** <sup>1</sup> *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,* <sup>2</sup> *Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:* <sup>3</sup> *To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

Who were these witnesses to the risen Christ? Paul mentions some of them to confirm the evidence that Christ rose from the dead. Four times in verses 5-8, Paul states “he was seen” which means he appeared in a literal, physical resurrection body. The word “seen” has to do with actual sight, not a vision or an imaginary viewing. This is the same way Peter described His experience with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. It was not a fairy tale, but fact.

**2 Peter 1:16** *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

In the NT there are at least ten appearances of Christ after His resurrection. Some of them are mentioned here in this text.

- A. Christ was seen by Peter (Cephas) – Peter was the first of the apostles that saw Christ.
- B. Christ was seen by the twelve (apostles)
- C. Christ was seen by over 500 believers at one time
- D. Christ was seen by James (half-brother of Jesus and writer of epistle)
- E. Christ was seen by other apostles (not in the original twelve)
- F. Christ was seen by Paul

For all these witnesses when they saw Christ alive from the dead, it was a life-changing experience. They were never the same. They were willing to lay down their lives for Christ and the Gospel. Why were they so committed and so bold? They knew the truth. They saw Christ and they knew it for a fact...Christ rose from the dead, proving that He is Lord of all. People may live for a lie, but they won’t die for one.

Why does the truth of the Gospel change one person’s life and not another? The answer is found in verse 10. It is the grace of God that changes the heart, causes a person to repent and believe in Christ, and compels a person to serve Christ. We see that phrase “in vain” again in verse 10 (compare to verse 2). God’s grace was bestowed on Paul for a purpose—to open his spiritual eyes and change his heart and the direction of his life. The same grace that was given to Paul was given to all believers including you and me (vs. 11). Has the gospel of Christ really changed your life?

# THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND CHRISTIANS – PART 1

## Evidence of Christ's Resurrection

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C. The Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ to stand upon

D. The Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation

*Romans 1:16* For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

E. The Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ to believe

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel (vs. 3-4)

A. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ as prophesied in OT Scripture

B. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ (to prove the reality of His death)

C. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ as prophesied in OT Scripture

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