

Christ's Resurrection

All Saints Reformed Presbyterian Church
July 25, 2021

Goals:

- Know what the Gospel IS.
- Know the CONTENT of the Gospel.
- Make the fact of the resurrection KEY to your presentation of the Gospel to others.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy 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 toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

What the Gospel IS

The Gospel is:

1. A message that Paul **preached**.

Paul said “the Gospel” characterizes and defines his apostolic ministry.

1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize but **to preach the gospel**, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1 Corinthians 15:1

Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received, in which you stand,

What the Gospel IS

The Gospel is:

1. A message that Paul preached.
2. A “message of **salvation** ... aimed at the salvation of the hearer.”

1 Corinthians 15:2

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 **and by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

What the Gospel IS

The Gospel is:

1. A message that Paul preached.
2. A message of salvation.
3. A message that must be **received**.

“It is not automatically effective. Any benefit that the gospel brings, it brings when it is appropriated by the hearer.”

1 Corinthians 15:2

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, **which you received**, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

What the Gospel IS

The Gospel is:

1. A message that Paul preached.
2. A message of salvation.
3. A message that must be received.
4. Mode of receiving it is **believing.**
 - a. We are saved **by faith alone.**
 - b. "**Believe**" is also the mode in which the message becomes effective in the life of an individual.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2, 11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, *in which you stand*, 2 and by which you are being saved, *if you hold fast* to the word I preached to you—unless you **believed** in vain.
... 11 Whether then it was I or they, so **we preach** and so **you believed**.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q.29 and Q.30

Q. 29. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made **partakers of the redemption** purchased by Christ, by the **effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.**

Q. 30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, **by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ** in our effectual calling.

What the Gospel IS

5. A message that is **definitional** to Christianity.

6. A message of **Divine origins**, and yet readily accessible to all..

“Paul’s point in 1 Corinthians 15:3 is that the contents of the gospel he preaches are neither idiosyncratic to Paul nor his private possession. ... The gospel originates exclusively from God, by divine revelation. It is also the common property of the church.”

1 Corinthians 15:3a

For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what **I also received**:

Galatians 1:11-12

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that **the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel**. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but **I received it through a revelation** of Jesus Christ.

What the Gospel IS

The Gospel is:

1. A message that [Paul] preached.
2. A message of salvation.
3. A message that must be received.
4. A message of salvation by faith alone.
5. A message that is definitional to Christianity.
6. A message of divine origins, and yet readily accessible to all.
7. A message of salvation **by Grace Alone!**

1 Corinthians 15:8-11

8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy 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 toward me was not in vain**. On the contrary, **I worked harder** than any of them, though **it was not I**, but **the grace of God that is with me**. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 **so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.** 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “**Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**”

What the Gospel IS

Foundational assumption of Paul's ... The Gospel is a **MESSAGE**.

“What I need first of all is not exhortation, but a gospel, not directions for saving myself but knowledge of how God has saved me. Have you any good news? That is the question that I ask of you. I know your exhortations will not help me. But if anything has been done to save me, will you not tell me the facts?”

- J. Gresham Machen, ***The Christian Faith in the Modern World***

Goals:

- Know what the Gospel IS.
The Gospel is the **message** of good news **preached** by the Apostles of Jesus Christ, the message that will bring **salvation** to all who **receive** it by **faith alone**.

Westminster Confession of Faith 7.3

3. Man, by his fall, having made himself uncapable of life by that covenant [the covenant of works], the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called **the covenant of grace**; wherein **he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved**, and promising to give **unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.**

Questions?

- Know what the Gospel IS.
- **Know the CONTENT of the Gospel.**
- Make the fact of the resurrection KEY to your presentation of the Gospel to others.

The Content of the Message

1. That Death of Christ **for our sins**.

“Paul’s emphasis that Christ died for ‘*our sins*’ indicates the personal character of Jesus’s work. Christ did not die and rise to deal with sin as some cosmic abstraction. He accomplished his saving work for sinners, for persons who were guilty of, under the dominion of, and corrupted by their sin.” (cf. 1 Cor 5:7; 8:11; 11:23-26; 2 Cor 5:19-21).

1 Corinthians 15:3b-4

that Christ **died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures,

that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

The Content of the Message

1. That Death of Christ for our sins.
2. The **Resurrection** of Christ.

“... Paul does not view the death of Christ in isolation from his resurrection.”

“The entirety of the believer’s salvation, from its beginning to its completion, is as a tributary running from the fountain, the risen Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:3b-4

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

that he was buried,

that **he was raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Romans 6:1-14 Dead to Sin, Alive to God

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Romans 6:1-14 Dead to Sin, Alive to God

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace

The Content of the Message

1. The Death of Christ for our sins.
2. The Resurrection of Christ.
3. Both are **in accordance with the Scriptures.**

“Redemptive history, Paul insists, has its *telos* in Christ’s saving work for sinners. The ‘fulfillment’ represented by the phrase ‘according to the scriptures’ ‘is not relative but absolute -- consummate.’ - (cf. Gal. 4:4; Col. 1:13-14).

1 Corinthians 15:3b-4

that Christ died for our sins **in accordance with the Scriptures,**

that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day **in accordance with the Scriptures,**

Ephesians 1:3-10

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will**, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us **the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

The Content of the Message

“Paul **does not invoke** Jesus’ burial and his appearances **as saving actions parallel with his death and resurrection. They are**, rather, ***ancillary and supporting***. Burial confirms that Christ did in fact die. The multiple appearances that Paul recounts confirm that Christ did in fact rise from the dead.”

“Paul’s gospel centers upon the ***historical*** person and ***historical*** activity of Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:4a, 5-8

that he was buried ... and that he **appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he **appeared** to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he **appeared** also to me.

Goals:

- Know the CONTENT of the Gospel.

The Gospel is the message that **Jesus died and rose again to save sinners.**

“... Christ’s death and resurrection are the heart, center, or core of his gospel. **They are the historical, saving acts, and Paul proclaims them in order that hearers, through faith in Christ, may be saved from their sins.**” And this good news **comes from an infallible source**, the word of God.

Questions?

- Know what the Gospel IS.
- Know the CONTENT of the Gospel.
- **Make the fact of the resurrection KEY to your presentation of the Gospel to others.**

How would you share the
Gospel with a lost person?

The Resurrection is KEY to the Gospel

The **danger** is that we tend to treat the resurrection the same way that Paul treats the burial and his appearances; as **merely ancillary to and supporting of Christ's dying for our sins. This is to give a defense of only half of "the reason for the hope that is in you"** (1 Peter 3:15).

The Resurrection is more than that. It is what gives us a hope for the future. **The resurrection is the power of God to save sinners.** Our Triune God is able to save and you are dying. The Living Christ is able to save you. **His mediatorial role as the Redeemer of God's elect is true of Him in both his estate of humiliation and exaltation.**

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q.23

Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, **both** in his estate of **humiliation** and **exaltation**.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q.27

Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's **humiliation** consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross;e in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q.28

Q. 28. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's **exaltation** consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Ephesians 1:15-23 - The Power of the Gospel is the Power of the Resurrection

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 **and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might** 20 **that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places**, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.