

THE GOSPEL

TEXT:1 COR. 15:1-11

C.H. Spurgeon said, "People have often asked me, 'What is the secret of your success?' I always reply that I have no other secret but this, that I have preached the gospel--not about the gospel--but the gospel; the full, free, glorious gospel of the Living Christ, who is the Incarnation of the Good News. Preach Christ, brethren, always and everywhere."

"Should all the forms that men devise
Attack my faith with treacherous art,
I'd call them vanities and lies,
And bind the Gospel to my heart."

Paul begins chapter 15 by saying, "**Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel.**" The word "gospel" simply means, "Good news." As Paul begins his discussion on the resurrection, he directs our attention to the gospel.

I. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOSPEL DECLARED!

In **Vs.1-4** Paul declares the meaning of the Gospel.

A. AS IT RELATES TO THE SAVIOUR.

Historically and doctrinally the Gospel is defined by death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Paul speaks of the gospel as it relates to Christ **we see that first of all He is the REDEEMING CHRIST: (VS. 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;)**

Paul declared in **Romans 5:6, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Also in Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

It was according to a pre-determined and pre-written plan.

It was not an afterthought but forethought.

It was conceived before the foundation of the world.

We also see that He is the RESURRECTED CHRIST: (VS.4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:)

(Mt. 28:1-6)"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. [2] And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. [3] His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: [4] And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. [5] And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. [6] He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

NOTE **VS.5-8** ... We are given proofs of the resurrection. Paul mentions both the public appearances and private appearances of a resurrected Christ. Paul declares that this is the gospel. Jesus died and He rose again on the third day.

A. AS IT RELATES TO THE SAVIOUR.

B. AS IT RELATES TO THE SAINT.

**First he speaks of THE BELIEVERS
ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOSPEL: (Vs. 1**

"received") We are saved because we heard and accepted the Gospel.

**Then he speaks of THE BELIEVERS ABIDING
IN THE GOSPEL: (Vs. 1 "stand") ...**

The day I met Jesus marked a new day in my life. From that day it has been a different life.

NOTE VS.2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.... Paul is not saying that "IF" I keep in memory (hold fast) I will stay saved, and if not, lose my salvation. No he is saying my holding fast or keeping in memory is the evidence of my salvation. It is the evidence that I have not believed in vain. You can't hold fast if you are not held fast!

The true believer has to say:

Could my tears forever flow,
Could my zeal no respite know,
This for sin could not atone
Thou must save, and Thou alone:
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

**I. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOSPEL
DECLARED!**

**II. THE STRENGTH OF THE GOSPEL
DEMONSTRATED!**

**A. PAUL THE PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH
OF GOD.**

[VS.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.... Paul considered himself the least of the apostles and not even fit to be called an apostle because of the life he had lived.

We read in **Acts 8:3, "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."**

Acts 22:4, "And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."

Acts 26:11, "And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."

He had been a great persecutor of the saints of God and the church of God. But there had been a marvelous change in his life.

A. PAUL THE PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH OF GOD.

B. PAUL THE PREACHER OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

Paul went from a persecutor to a preacher.

Why?

(Note Vs.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 laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.).

The gospel can change a man from being a persecutor to a preacher.

It can take a bottle out of his hands and put a Bible in it.

It can take a filthy mouth and turn it into a mouth of praise.

It can take a man who is a shame to his family and make him an example to his family.

I think of the inscription on the grave of John Newton:

John Newton, Clerk

Once and infidel and libertine, A servant of slaves in Africa,
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Preserved, restored, pardoned, And appointed to preach the faith

He had long labored to destroy.

I. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

II. THE STRENGTH OF THE GOSPEL

III. THE SHARING OF THE GOSPEL

In verses 1-11 several times Paul makes reference to his sharing of the Gospel.

A. A MESSAGE THAT ALL NEED TO HEAR.

There are people that need to get in. There are people that are dying. There are people who need to know about a Saviour that can save them from their sins. We need to get in and get others in.

A. A MESSAGE ALL NEED TO HEAR.

B. A MESSAGE ALL NEED TO HEED.

1Co 15:11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

GET IT OUT SEND IT OUT

TELL IT FAR AND WIDE

GIVE IT OUT TELL IT OUT

ABOUT JESUS WHO DIED

GET IT OUT SEND IT OUT

TELL IT FAR AND WIDE

ABOUT JESUS WHO RESSURECTED

AND IS NOW VERY MUCH ALIVE

BY AWO