

# **Christ Is Risen!**

## **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**

**Thought for the Day:** Through faith in the sacrificial, substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His victorious, bodily resurrection from the grave, we have the confident expectation and joyful anticipation that we, too, shall live forever in heaven with Him.

Like the early Church, we honor Christ's resurrection from the dead by gathering together on Sundays to worship Him (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important?

- "After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, and thoroughly investigating its foundation, I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is [either] one of the 'most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, or it is the most fantastic fact of history.'" (*McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict*)
- Christianity stands or falls with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! "Once you have disproved the Resurrection. . . you have disposed of Christianity." (*Michael Green*)
- We must believe in Christ's Resurrection in order to be saved! (Romans 10:9)

### **I. The Communication of the Gospel (15:1-2)**

**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.**

#### **A. Paul Preached It**

- In order for communication to take place, a message must be sent and received. If a message is sent but not received, communication has not taken place.
- Paul reminds his readers of the message he sent to them: The Gospel.
  - "Gospel" literally means "a good message" or "good news."
  - The Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news because it tells us how to be saved from the penalty and consequences of our sins.

#### **B. His Readers Received It**

- Those who hear the message must receive the message.
  - A message can be preached, but if we don't receive it into our heart and mind, and then apply it in our life, real communication has not taken place.
- Paul's listeners actively responded to his presentation of the gospel: 1) They received it; 2) Took their stand on it; 3) Held fast to it; 4) Believed it.
- "Unless you believed in vain."
  - Your faith in the Gospel will save you, unless you quit trusting in the Gospel.
  - The Bible teaches the eternal security of the believer, but it also teaches the perseverance of the believer.
  - Genuine, saving faith in Jesus Christ will persevere to the end. (Matthew 10:22; 24:10-13)

- “Standing firm to the end is not a way *to be saved* but the evidence that a person is really committed to Jesus. Persistence is not a means to earn salvation; it is the by-product of a truly devoted life.” (*Life Application Commentary Series*)

## **II. The Consequence of the Gospel (15:2a)**

**...by which you are being saved...**

### **A. The Gospel Delivers and Protects Us...**

### **B. ...From the Penalty and Consequences of Sin**

- Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 5:12; 6:23.

## **III. The Content and Confirmation of the Gospel (15:3-8)**

**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. 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.**

### **➤ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received...**

- The gospel did not originate with Paul; he received it directly from the Lord and then passed it on to others.
- God has revealed Himself and the way to be saved to us: We either accept what He has revealed or we reject it; we don't get to create our own formula!

### **A. Content: Christ Died For Our Sins in Accordance with the Scriptures (vs. 3)**

- Christ died on the cross because of our sins – it was our sins that nailed Him to the cross. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
- Christ died on the cross as the Substitute for our sins – He died in our place the death that we deserve. (Romans 5:8)
- Christ's death was not an accident. It was prophesied in the Old Testament (e.g., Psalm 22). It was in accordance with the plan and purpose of God. Jesus predicted several times to His disciples that He would die in Jerusalem and be raised again.

### **B. Confirmation: He was Buried (vs. 4a)**

- The Roman soldiers assigned to this detail knew and understood death. They knew that if a prisoner of theirs escaped, they would pay with their own lives.
- The historical record confirms His death. (John 19:31-38; Mark 15:42-45)

### **C. Content: Christ was Raised from the Dead in Accordance with the Scriptures (vs. 4b)**

- Christ's resurrection was prophesied in the the Old Testament. (e.g., Isaiah 53)

### **D. Confirmation: He Appeared to Many People (vss. 5-8)**

- The Gospels record a total of twelve post-resurrection appearances.
- Paul's point: "If you don't believe me, go and talk to those who were eyewitnesses!"
- Christ's appearance to Paul – Acts 9:1-9.