

The Gospel that Saves

#3292 26 0614A 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 wds1184

1 Corinthians 15:1 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the **gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

The apostle didn’t invent the message, just faithfully proclaimed it. If the **Gospel saves**, it is indeed **Good News!** We must not *believe in vain* because the resurrection of Christ is the foundation on which everyone must place their faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift** of God, 9 no one can boast.”

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Jesus died in **our** place and bore **our** punishment Isaiah 53:5-6. The resurrection of Jesus is the reason we claim and receive what God has promised. Eyewitnesses substantiated the fact that **Jesus is alive!**

2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

1 Corinthians 15:5 “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.”

Cephas witnessed the risen Savior—
7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”

A former persecutor became a devoted apostle. **The Gospel that Saves** is for the person who *believes*. No use to saying we trust God for salvation if the resurrection of Christ is not true. But it **is** true 1 Corinthians 15:20 “Christ **has** risen from among the dead.”

Jesus came out of the tomb—with over 500 witnesses over 40 days affirming the fact. We know that Jesus completed the sacrifice for sin—and this enables the forgiveness of *our* sins.

Two men were crucified with Jesus. One *mocked* Him and the other *worshipped* Him; One was *critical*; the other *remorseful*; One *complained* to Jesus and the other *submitted* to Jesus.

Jesus’ atoning sacrifice offers *full payment* for all our sins—and by our repenting of them and placing our trust on Jesus, we can be *with* Him forever.

The thief next to Jesus said AV Luke 23:42, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

And Jesus replied 43 “*Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*” Only an attitude *change*—changed the *direction* of the man’s life—he went from **lost** to **saved** in seconds!

The apostle said 1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

10 “By the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.”

Faith to believe is a *choice*—based on *trust* by what we *know* is true—knowing what Jesus *did* on the Cross for us all.

Two men on either side of Jesus had a choice to *receive* or *reject* Jesus—and their choices would determine their final residence.

Everyone has that *same* choice—to decide what Jesus *did* at Calvary for the world or to ignore and reject that sacrifice as of no importance. Only an *attitude* separated **Heaven** from **Hell** for the men.

The apostle “*Was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life*”
1 Timothy 1:16.

He was shown **Grace**—getting what he did not deserve, a gift—and he was shown **Mercy**—*not* getting what he *did* deserve—punishment.

When Jesus said, “*It is finished,*” all prophecy was *fulfilled* concerning His atoning sacrifice for the sins in the world.

This debt was paid 2,000 years ago, and by faith in His sacrifice, we are no longer a sinner heading for the flames—but a child of God waiting to be raptured
Colossians 2:14.

=HYMN=

God does *not force* anyone to love Him—He gave us *free will*. We can *run* our own life, or we can ask *God* to *run* it for us by His mercy and grace.

If we repent of the rebellious attitudes we had; and if we ask Jesus into our heart to change our attitudes from ***Dark to Different*** **2 Peter 3:9**, we start going in the right *direction* to the right *destination*.

We can now approach God’s throne of grace without fear—that is ***The Gospel that Saves!*** He *wants* to show us *mercy*, and He offers us a very valuable gift—***forgiveness*** of sins through an enduring faith in the sacrifice of His Son.

The apostle experienced the *mercy* of God in giving him the opportunity to *repent, believe, and be saved*—**Hebrews 3:7** “*Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts.*”

The apostle knew that and he was grateful for the gift of grace. **NKJV 1 Corinthians 15:9** “*I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am.*”

Two witnesses are needed in a Jewish court to establish the truth. The resurrection of Jesus is confirmed—there were more than 13 eye-witnesses—the two

angels and several women. **AV 1 Corinthians 15:6** “*After that, [Jesus] was seen of above five hundred brethren at once.*”

The resurrection of Christ and His presence in the world for 40 days was not hidden but out in the open for *believers* to witness. This proved beyond any doubt that *Jesus is God* incarnate.

His followers would die for their faith—they knew who He was and what He did for them on Calvary’s Cross.

Acts 1:3 “*After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.*”

It brings us back to **1 Corinthians 15:1** “*I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand.*”

The Gospel *saves* us from God’s wrath—we just have to keep our faith in the sacrifice of Jesus until He returns.



www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

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