

## **The Gospel**

### **1Corinthians 15:1-20**

Paul on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey came to corrupt-Corinth **Acts 18** preached gospel while working w/ Aquila & Priscilla **tent-making**. He taught in the city 18 months.

A pagan-Greek city that rejected any belief in the resurrection. Body was a prison, soul was chained to a corpse--source of all evil. At death was released. When in Athens **Acts 17:32** Paul was mocked when declaring the gospel and resurrection.

Some in church at Corinth were denying fact of resurrection. **3 philosophies** were prevalent in Corinth. **Epicurean**-materialist, no afterlife, **eat drink be merry for tomorrow we die** philosophy. **Stoic**-at death the soul merges w/ deity w/ a loss of personality. **Platonism**-immortality of the soul but no bodily resurrection but continuation of personality.

New converts brought baggage of old philosophies into church and were influencing others so Paul corrects. **illus guy w/ baptism**

Gospel is not a man-made religion like all the others but Resurrection of the body is the fundament & essential doctrine--otherwise the gospel & faith in Jesus Christ is worthless & church is non-existent.

Paul assures what they already knew & believed from the beginning so false doctrine not take root & deceive--Jesus Christ risen from dead first fruits & all who believe will join Him in resurrected life.

*1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the **gospel** which I **preached** to you, which also you **received**, in which also you **stand**, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which 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 according to the **Scriptures**, 4 & that He was buried, & that He was raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the **Scriptures**, 5 & that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time, most of whom **remain until now**, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 & last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, & His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach & so you believed. 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;*

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What evidence? **First: :1** Life of those who believe. New life in the Spirit--old things pass away behold all things become new **2Cor 5:1**—transformed life. There is no hope in a dead savior. Plus they were standing strong.

**Second: :3,4** OT prophets—*first importance*--eternal things all else is secondary & temporal. **Is 53; Ps 16:8-11; 2:7(Acts 13:33) Jonah Mt 12:38-41 Job:19:25-27** *'I know that my redeemer-lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

**Third:** Seen by others—unbelievers saw on cross & believers when resurrected **12 recorded appearances--Acts1:22**-apostles witness of resurrection; **2:32**-Peter confirms we all witnesses; **3:15**-Peters second sermon 'we are witnesses'; **5:32**-Peter again we are witnesses and so is the Holy Spirit. **500** at one time—**go talk to eye witnesses who still alive**

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Paul the greatest witness of all--unbeliever, persecutor, vote for death of Stephen--now apostle, *born out of due season*--later than original apostles on road to Damascus. **Jesus--raised to life & so will we** But doubters influ.

*12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.*

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If there is no resurrection why endure the abuse, broken relationships, persecution. Fall out form family & friends. Why put up w/ sneers and mocking from unbelievers. And why crucify the flesh in wanting to please a non-existent so called glorified resurrected Jesus if there is no resurrection.

But the fact remains Christ did rise from the death the first fruits of those who believe. And converts to Christ are standing strong, OT prophecy fulfilled, Paul example of a persecutor turned apostle. Plus the empty tomb a powerful witnesses to resurrection.

*First fruits*—OT Lev 23:9-14

Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God crucified for our sins. He is the First fruits sheaf waived by the priest signifying celebration of harvest on first day of week Sunday.

When priest waved sheaf sign of whole--represent blessing of God on provision and whole harvest. Jesus resurrection represents what is in store for us who believe. Death only sleep and soul/spirit w/ Lord 2 Cor 5:1-8 Phil 1:21-23 at rapture body awakes from grave to meet soul w/ Lord 1 Thes 4:16