The Event of First Importance
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
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The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in human history.

I. The word "gospel" means good news. (v. 1)

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God… (Romans 3:23)

But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

…the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

[evildoers including the unbelieving] will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

II. The Bible tells us we can be rescued from our sin. (v. 2a)

For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. (Galatians 3:21b)

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. (Romans 3:20)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

III. God's gift of salvation should become absolutely our most precious possession. (v. 2b)

IV. The death of the Savior was predicted centuries before it happened. (v.3)

…the Anointed One (the meaning of Messiah or Christ) will be put to death… (Daniel 9:24a)

…they pierce my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16b).

V. The reason for the Savior's death was also given centuries in advance. (v.3)

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. (Romans 4:25)

VI. God has provided more than <u>sufficient</u> <u>evidence</u> that these things are <u>true</u>. (v. 4)

He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. (Isaiah 53:3)

VII. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is <u>conclusive</u> <u>proof</u> that our sins can be <u>forgiven</u> because of His <u>sacrifice</u>. (v. 4-7)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) (John 20:1-9)

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

After his suffering, he presented himself to [His apostles] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from

the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

"'I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.
-You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

… Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. (Acts 2:22-32)

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. … And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:14-21)

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

..free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:15)