

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**The Gospel: Is It True?**  
**1 Cor 15**

Last time...concluding the instruction on spiritual gifts:

- tongues vs prophesying
- private vs public worship

Spiritual gifts are to be exercised with *agape* and orderliness in public worship

This time...the very foundation of the Christian faith – the Gospel

Is it true?

If it is true, what does it mean to us?

We are in 1 Cor 15

v1-2 Not shyly offering an idea to consider, the Apostle Paul is declaring to the Church:

- the Gospel he preached

Inspired and written earlier, Gal 1:6-10

- The Gospel of Grace
- The Gospel of Christ
- though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ

- the Gospel they believed
- the Gospel upon which they stand before the Living God
- the Gospel that saved them from eternal death

if they have not believed it in vain...

- without reason
- blindly
- without a solid foundation that could easily be replaced in the marketplace of the world's philosophies

Is ours a reasoned and reasonable faith?

Or is ours a blind faith like all the religions of the world?

We have to know!

To start, what is the Gospel?

- v3-4 This is the Gospel the Apostle Paul received personally from Jesus Christ Himself, this is the Gospel Paul faithfully preached:
- Christ died for our sins
  - Christ was buried
  - Christ rose again on the third day
  - all according to the Scriptures
    - the very words of God revealing the mystery of the Christ
    - God foretelling mankind what He was going to do to resolve man's problem – death

Gen 22

Ps 22

Is 53

Dan 9

And hundreds others

This declaration is radically different than all other philosophies/worldviews in the world

Case in point: Acts 17

v30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent. Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead

The Question: Is this true?

The Author of this Book, the Holy Spirit of God, inspiring Paul, is going to make His case for the absolute truth of the Gospel from 3 perspectives

1. Historical (v5-11)
2. Logical (v12-19)
3. Theological (v20-28)

v5-9 Starting with the historical: eyewitnesses, the sightings of the risen Lord Jesus Christ:

1. Cephas/Peter
2. "the twelve"...the original disciples, 11 at the time, Judas having perished
3. more than 500 at the same time, most of whom are still alive and can so testify
4. James...son of Josph and Mary, Jesus' half-brother, 1<sup>st</sup> pastor of the Church
5. All of the apostles...the 11 again
6. Saul of Tarsus aka Paul...Acts 9

Total eyewitness sighting of the risen Lord: 525+

FAR greater than Deut 17:6...by 2 or 3 witnesses shall a matter be established  
Greatly surpassing any legal requirement of any court of law

v10-11 And regarding Saul of Tarsus and the historical perspective of the truth of the Gospel:  
His personal testimony – he was a radically changed man!

- from the inside out – heart, soul, and mind
- in thought, speech, and behavior...from persecutor to preacher
- before God and man
- one who loves much because he was forgiven of much (Luke 7:47),  
evidenced by his tireless labor of love with the Gospel

Changed by...grace i.e. the Gospel of Grace, the Gospel of Christ...  
the Gospel Paul preached and the Gospel the Corinthians believed

Written earlier, Gal 2:20-21a

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God.

Now whereas all the eyewitness accounts are sufficient in any court of law to declare the Gospel true, the Holy Spirit continues to build His case (for us, so we KNOW)  
Next perspective: Logical (v12-19)

v12-19 “Come, let us reason together” to those who say there is no resurrection of the dead

Consider, let’s think this thru logically:

1. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Jesus Christ is NOT risen
  - making 525+ sightings of the risen Lord all “cases of mistaken identity”...all lies, a conspiracy of deception
  - So...why would anyone be a follower of Jesus Christ?
2. If Christ is not risen, then our proclaiming His resurrection...  
and your faith in it...are empty, worthless, meaningless
3. We...the Apostles and all other preachers of the Gospel...are false witnesses,  
liars of the very worst sort, before God and man because we have declared  
that God raised Jesus from the dead
  - If the dead rise, He is – the Resurrection is true
  - If the dead do not rise, He is not – the Resurrection is pure fiction  
and we are saying God did something He did not do
4. If Christ is not raised, your faith in Him and His resurrection is foolish and  
you are still dead in sin i.e. death is not conquered if the Savior is dead

5. All those who took their last breaths on earth believing Jesus rose from the dead are eternally dead, never to be seen again
  - making Jesus is a liar
 

John 5:24     *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*
  - and we have no hope beyond this moment
6. If our hope in Jesus Christ is confined to this life, on earth in space and time, we followers of Jesus are the most pathetic and miserable people on earth

Logically, there is no resurrection of the dead if Jesus is not risen...  
 but if Christ is risen the dead are raised, and God's testimony (v3-4) is true

Finally, the Holy Spirit declared the theological perspective of the truth of the Gospel (v20-28)

- v20     But now is Christ risen from the dead, bodily risen, never to die again
- fact, not fiction
  - truth, not lies

Evidence:

- Angelic witnesses: "Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen (Luke 24:5-7)...just as He told you a handful of times before hand
- The witness of the enemies of Christ (Jew and Gentile):
  - desperately searched for the dead body of Jesus...never found!
  - fabricated a fantastic lie (His disciples stole the dead body guarded by 16 soldiers and hid it) to "cover up" the truth that Jesus was risen from the dead never to die again
- Eyewitnesses
 

The enemies could not find the dead body but the risen Lord openly showed Himself to 525+ people

v21-22     Theological basis of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

1. Since by man (Adam) came death into the world (Gen 2:17, Gen 3:1-7), so by man (Jesus, the Son of Man) also came the resurrection of the dead, God's corrective action to man's corrupting action
  - Resurrection: the power of God to make alive that which is dead
  - Rom 6:23

2. Therefore, as in Adam all die (all physical descendants of Adam die physically), so are those “in Christ” will be made alive
  - Jesus Christ is the Conqueror of death...for all who believe
  - John 3:16
  - Rom 10:9

v23 All who believe will be made alive...in order by the God of order

The first to be raised alive to never to die again (life eternal): Jesus Christ  
NOT

- the son of the widow of Zaraphath of Zidon (Elijah)
- the son of the Shunammite woman (Elisha)
- the man buried in the sepulcher of Elisha
- Jairus' daughter (Jesus)
- Lazarus (Jesus)

Then, after Jesus, those who

- believe
  - Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
  - the Gospel Paul preached
- are Christ's
  - purchased by His blood
  - made righteous children of God by grace thru faith
- at His coming/return...the Rapture

The Resurrection unto eternal life

1. started with Jesus, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after dying and being buried
2. continued after Jesus' Ascension and even to this day
  - many: emptying Abraham's Bosom (Luke 16:19-31, Eph 4:8)
  - one life at a time (2 Cor 5:8)...kernels of “popcorn”
3. concludes at the Rapture
  - many: all righteous living on earth, all at once

v24-28 And then comes the end...

- God's Plan of Redemption
- Jesus Christ, Son of Man and Son of God, delivers the kingdom of God to God the Father, having put down/subjected to His Lordship
  - all rule/governments...no Joe Biden, no Nancy Pelosi, no deep state, no Putin, just Kok and Lol ruling on earth
  - all authority and power...Eph 6:12, no Satan, no Gog, no Tech cos

It is necessary for King Jesus to reign until ALL His enemies are subdued and subjected forever, the last of which is death itself

Note:

- a. death is NOT a part of Life as God created it, death is man's corruption of Life as God created it
- b. Death is destroyed/abolished in the Lake of Fire (Rev 20) after the final rebellion against Him

And when the work of King Jesus is complete,  
when all things are put under His feet...except God the Father...  
then Jesus subjects Himself to God the Father, completing the restoration of  
God's perfect order

Summary: Is the Gospel (v3-4) true?  
Historically? Yes!  
Logically? Yes!  
Theologically? Yes!

Since the Gospel is true, what does it mean to us?

1. We die daily (Gal 2:20), fellowshiping with like-minded believers (v29-34)
2. We have a body now, we have a body next (v35-49)
3. We will all be changed (v50-57)
4. Knowing what we know and knowing that we know, we love/serve the Lord and each other (v58)

v29-34 Since the resurrection of the dead is categorically true and since the Resurrection is the power of the Gospel...which is to be preached and believed...why are some of you practicing the baptism of the dead (water immersion for the remission of sin AFTER a person dies)?

That practice is false, illogical, and bad theology  
Paul is condemning this practice, NOT teaching it

Heb 9:27

Since I know Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him until that day (2 Cor 5:8 or Rapture), I die daily:

- die to Self/the flesh...Matt 16:24
- accounting my old man/flesh crucified with Christ, dead to sin
- live in the newness of life, alive unto God thru Jesus Christ our Lord

Accordingly, because resurrection unto eternal life is the power of God and the promise of God to those who believe, we fight the good fight of faith...  
a spiritual battle with

- demonic beings
- unbelievers and mockers

Therefore, let us not be deceived:

Unbelieving companionships corrupt good moral habits, Godly living  
Many are willingly ignorant of the knowledge of God (Word), so separate  
yourselves from unbelievers of the Resurrection lest we fall into error

Since the Gospel is true, what does it mean to us?

1. We die daily, fellowshiping with like-minded believers (v29-34)

v35-37 Some...the ignorant and mockers and unbelieving...will ask

- a. How are the dead raised (wanting to understand before they believe)?
- b. Show me a resurrected body (living by sight vs faith)

Their ignorance is foolish!

Nature gives evidence of the Resurrection – planted seeds in the ground  
The seed (whatever seed) is buried in the earth...where it dies.  
Then it is made alive...by God and not the farmer...  
and it produces life, yielding mature plants and many other seeds

Using this simplest of examples, Jesus said

John 12:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

v38-41 The Creator has placed seed after its own kind in all His living creation –  
plant, animal, and human

And He has done so according to His creative genius and good pleasure:

- Mankind
- land-dwelling animals
- water-dwelling animals...fish
- air-dwelling animals...birds
  
- heavenly bodies
  - sun
  - moon
  - stars
- earthly bodies

btw #1...all flesh is not the same

The Theory of Evolution...all life came out of the gooey swamp...  
has no factual basis and is a lie

btw #2...one star differs from another star  
How did Paul know that?  
That has only recently been discovered  
This is a revelation of God thru Paul

v42-44 Different bodies...hence resurrection

Our body is sown (buried in the ground) in corruption...the very best we can do  
It is raised in incorruption...the power of God

It is sown in dishonor...the very best we can do  
It is raised in glory...the power of God

It is sown in weakness...the very best we can do  
It is raised in power...the power of God

It is sown a natural body...of the dust of the earth  
It is raised a spiritual body...a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor 5:1)

Statement of Fact: There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body  
Where do those 2 radically different bodies come from?

v45-47 The first man Adam was made a living soul...a crafted lump of clay into which the Creator breathed His Spirit/Life

His descendants: born of the flesh as Adam and Eve were fruitful and multiplied

The last Adam was made a quickening spirit...NOT the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam because then it could be taught there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> etc man

Jesus is

- the end of God's Plan of Redemption of mankind
- an eternally enlivening Spirit
- the Creator come to bring life back to His beloved creature

His "descendants": born again of the Spirit of God

Our bodies:

1<sup>st</sup>...now: natural ala Adam

2<sup>nd</sup>...next: spiritual ala Jesus



The first man, Adam, is natural

- of the earth...the soil
- earthy..."dusty" (Gen 3:19)

The second (after the first in time vs 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> etc) man is the Lord from heaven

- supernatural
- not "dusty"...not Gen 3:19, Ps 16:10

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

Therefore, by the power of God (Resurrection),

- As is Adam, so are all his descendants...earthy/"dusty"
- As is Jesus, so are all his brethren (John 1:12-13)...heavenly/spiritual
- All who believe
  - have worn the likeness of the earthy/Adam
  - will also wear the likeness of the heavenly/Jesus

Phil 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Since the Gospel is true, what does it mean to us?

1. We die daily, fellowshiping with like-minded believers (v29-34)
2. We have a dusty body now, we have a glorious body next (v35-49)

v50-52 The earthy/"dusty"/natural body CANNOT reside in the kingdom of God in His holy presence because it is corrupt and defiled (Rom 7:18)

Therefore, something has to change and Someone has to make that change  
A mystery of God...a revelation of God to man

We shall not all sleep...1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection unto eternal life

- a. "popcorn" (one life at a time)...sleeping
- b. all the living all at once (Rapture)...not sleeping

but we shall all be changed...

- from the inside out
- from life = blood to life = Spirit
- spiritual body raised from the natural body

in the twinkling of an eye...fastest moment in time

at the last trump...when we think not, when Jesus returns like a thief in the night

We shall be changed!!!

v53-55 This change MUST happen!

Corruption MUST put on incorruption to be in the presence of God our Father  
Mortal (subject to death) MUST put on immortality (freed from death)

Just as God promised!

Is 25:8a He (the LORD God the Messiah) will swallow up death in victory

Hosea 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction

v56-57 Sin and death are locked arm-in-arm

The Law shows us our sin and death...and our helplessness to conquer either  
We cannot ever “be good enough” to go to heaven, we must be made different

But...thanks be to God...Jesus has defeated/destroyed death and given us the victory  
over our enemy!

Jesus made the change that needed to be made!

Since the Gospel is true, what does it mean to us?

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v58 Therefore, until an individual “popcorn” or Rapture,

- be steadfast...settled in an unsettled world
- be unmovable...Rock-solid in a convulsing world
- always abounding (vs dribbling or dabbling) in the work of the Lord...  
Matt 22:36-40, Luke 19:10

Because we know...God has so said:

- our labor...of love
- is not in vain...empty, worthless, meaningless
- in the Lord...our eternally unchanging position before the holy God

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### **Application**

To bring v58 closer to home:

Deut 1:15      I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes

The flesh/corruption compares and competes based on numbers and outward appearances  
The Spirit seeks faithfulness to the Word of God

“What am I doing for the kingdom of God?  
What impact am I having on the lives of others?  
How significant or important is my ministry?

KNOW

If you are loving the Lord,  
If you are loving others,  
Your labor of love is noted by the Lord and is very meaningful and important to the Lord!

Col 3:23-24      And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ

Heb 6:10      For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister

The world is filled with

- discouragement
- distress
- madness
- perplexity
- confusion
- frustration

But we are strangers and pilgrims in the world, citizens of the kingdom of God

So, fear not, my little flock, neither be discouraged!

The Lord before whom we stand goes before us and is always with us

Keep your eyes on the Lord

Love the Lord and each other

And press on!

Resurrection is

- The very power of God
- The central tenant of our faith

Have any of us crossed the bridge from this world into the next world, raised unto eternal life  
never to die again?

No. We have no such personal experience, it is an unknown

But Heb 11:1

Titus 1:2

So KNOW

- The Gospel (v3-4) is absolutely true
- What the truth of the Gospel means to you!

KNOW what you know

KNOW that you know

Live accordingly

Luke 21:28

Luke 21:36