

Paul's Gospel – Part 1

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Introduction:

1. Paul was very adamant that he had received a gospel message from Jesus Christ and his mandate and commission was to proclaim that good news to every man.
2. Paul explains this gospel in synopsis form here in our text.
3. This text looks very basic and simplistic on the surface, but when you begin to really read the words slowly and carefully, you begin to understand that there is a lot here.
4. In these four verses, Paul is going to answer several questions about the gospel. Where did this gospel come from? What did this gospel contain? What should be our response to the gospel? What does the gospel do for us after we believe it?
5. In this lesson, we will see each of these questions answered from God's Word.

First, where did this gospel come from?

1. Paul says in verse 1, "*I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...*"
2. This gospel came from Paul to the Corinthians. But where did Paul get it from? Verse 3 declares, "*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received...*"
3. But where did Paul receive this good news from? **Galatians 1:1, 11-12**
 - Paul makes it very clear that his apostleship and his gospel did not originate out of man's authority or out of human instrumentality.
 - It came directly from Jesus Christ and His instrumentality. The resurrected Christ personally appeared to Paul and taught it to him by revelation.
 - Paul later would travel to Jerusalem and explain his gospel message to the twelve apostles. **Galatians 2:2**
4. The gospel we preach today came from the resurrected and ascended Christ to Paul, and from Paul to the Gentiles and to the church. **1 Timothy 2:6-7; 2 Timothy 1:8-13; Titus 1:2-3; Ephesians 3:6-9**

Second, what did this gospel consist of?

1. There are three elements to this good news in verses 3-4:
 - Christ died for our sins.
 - Christ was buried.
 - Christ rose again the third day.
2. The **facts** of what Christ would do were prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures, but what the facts would **mean** to this sin-cursed world and all that would be accomplished was kept secret by God until the "*due time*" arrived.
3. You will hear people define the gospel as "the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ." This is not really accurate. Our gospel that we preach today was kept secret until God saved Paul and revealed to Him all that was accomplished through the finished work of Christ. Our gospel is more than just these facts.
4. The **facts** of His death, burial, and resurrection were proclaimed by Peter to Israel on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:23-24**. Yet Peter did not preach the facts the way Paul did or we do today.

- He preached that the cross was a dastardly deed done by wicked hands and that the resurrection meant judgment upon Christ's foes. Repent of crucifying Christ.
 - There is no mention of the blessedness of the cross or that Christ died for sins so that His enemies could be reconciled by faith alone in His cross-work.
5. So, our gospel today is more than just the **facts** of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Our gospel is that Christ died **for our sins**. He did not just make atonement for Isaiah's people (the sins of Israel - **Isaiah 53:5-6**).
 6. Our gospel is that Christ made a full atonement for the sins of everybody (Jew or Gentile), and that any person in any country can come to Him on an absolutely equal basis. He gave Himself a ransom for **all**, but this message was to be testified in due time, when God saved Paul and sent him to the world with this message.
1 Timothy 2:6-7
 7. Our gospel contains special information (redemption, immediate forgiveness, justification by faith, reconciliation, oneness with Christ) that Paul received about the cross and the meaning of Calvary and the empty tomb for this world.
 - You will not find any of these elements of the gospel explained before Paul. Why is this? Simply because it was not revealed yet. Paul was the "due time" testifier.