

The Good News of Christ's Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-18-2024

The death and resurrection of Jesus is foundational to the Christian faith.

Paul is addressing the problem in the church at Corinth around the truth of the resurrection.

- Some did not believe in a bodily resurrection.
- Some may not have even believed in the immortality of the soul.
- This obviously calls into question any resurrection and any life after death, including that of Jesus!

So, Paul addresses the issue by reminding them of the essentials of the gospel he preached and, in the process, answers the question:

What does it take to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

1. Bold Proclamation (1-2)

We can 'forget' the truth we've embraced and be led astray. The gospel is something we hear, receive, stand in and are being saved by. All faith is not saving faith.

Bold proclamation is needed for belief in the resurrection of Jesus. – Romans 10:11-15

2. Historical Evidence (3-4)

There are some things that are essential to the gospel. The death and resurrection of Jesus are foundational to everything else. The death of Christ was unique in that He did not die because of His sin but for our sins. The death of Christ for our sins was foretold in the Old Testament (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22, 69; Isaiah 53; Daniel 9:24-26; Zechariah 13:7). The resurrection of Christ was also foretold in the Old Testament (Psalm 2:7; 16:10; Acts 2:31; Isaiah 53:11; Hosea 6:2; Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:38-40). The resurrection of Christ was a testimony to the successful atonement made for us in His death.

Historical evidence is needed for belief in the resurrection of Jesus. – Luke 1:1-4

3. Reliable Witnesses (5-9)

The risen Christ was seen by many as selected by God to be witnesses to it. The risen Christ was seen by those who denied Him and deserted Him, by both individuals and small and large groups, by those who were still alive when Paul wrote this and by some who had already died, by one of His brothers who had rejected Him up to that point, and by one who persecuted the Christian church to the point of death. The risen Christ was seen by friends and enemies. Seeing the risen Christ changed the lives of those who saw Him. Those Jews who claimed to see the risen Christ were not inclined to do so because the Jews did not believe in an individual bodily resurrection before the end of the age nor did they believe in a

crucified Messiah. Those who claimed to see the risen Christ would not have made it up and preached it knowing and finding out that the earthly result was likely to be rejection and torture and death.

Reliable witnesses are needed for belief in the resurrection of Jesus. – Acts 1:1-8

4. Gracious Work of God's Spirit (10-11)

Paul gives God all the credit for the change in His life from unbeliever (persecutor of the Church) to believer (one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ!). Paul also gives God all the credit for an abundantly fruitful life and ministry (no small change). Paul attributes all this to the 'grace of God' which means (1) undeserved favor but also (2) empowering to trust and love in obedience to God. Paul returns to the fact that he and the other apostles preach this good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the Corinthians had believed it earlier and need to continue to believe it.

The grace of God or the gracious work of the Spirit of God is needed for belief in the resurrection of Jesus. – Ephesians 2:1-10

Application

1. **Beware of an empty faith.** We can believe in 'vain': without necessary knowledge or trust. (2 Corinthians 11:1-6; Matthew 10:1-8) *So know the good news and trust the Person of Jesus as Lord and Savior!*
2. **Expect your faith to be tested.** By hard hearts (people you care about who don't believe). By hard trials (afflictions and persecutions). By hard truths (eat my flesh, etc). By heretical temptations (no resurrection; Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses). By happy temptations (good things, money, pleasure, etc). (Mark 4:14-20) *So hold fast to the truth when your faith is tested!*
3. **The grace of God can melt the hardest hearts.** The grace of God can change the unbelieving. (Matthew 19:16-26) *So pray to the One who changes hearts!*

The 3 Most Pressing Questions in Life

*Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life;
no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6*

- Rest in Jesus (truth of God): *What will I do about my guilt?*
- Hope in God (promises of God): *What will I embrace as my supreme good?*
- Pursue Love (commands of God): *What will I pursue in life as my goal?*