

**Grace and Work**  
**1 Cor. 15:9-11**

Matters of First Importance (3-11)

Paul – the one untimely born

**Paul’s apostleship: Grace and Work (9-11)**

- II. Paul’s defense of the resurrection of believers (12-34)
  - a) If the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised (12-19)
  - b) Christ has been raised and believers will be raised (20-28)
  - c) Pragmatic arguments (29-34)
- III. How are the dead to be raised? Bodily (35-58)
  - a) The nature of the resurrection body (35-49)
  - b) The Resurrection, the Death of Death, and Ethics (50-58)

**Grace and Work**

**I. The Least of the Apostles (9)**

- A. Least//I am not worthy to be called “apostle”
  
- B. Because I persecuted the church of God  
Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1, 13, 21; 22:4, 19; 26:10; Gal. 1:13; Phil. 3:6; 1 Tim. 1:13  
*When sinners are by divine grace turned into saints, he makes the remembrance of their former sins very serviceable, to make them humble, and diligent, and faithful.* Matthew Henry

**II. The Grace of God (10)**

- A. By the grace of God I am what I am
  - 1. the grace of God made Paul what he was
  
  - 2. What a powerful perspective for our own sense identity  
*We are nothing but what God makes us, nothing in religion but what his grace makes us. All that is good in us is a stream from this fountain. Paul was sensible of this, and kept humble and thankful by this conviction; so should we.* Matthew Henry
  
- B. His grace to me did not become vain  
Cf. 15:2; 2 Cor. 6:2

### **III. Paul's Hard Word (10b)**

- A. But I worked more than all of them
  
- B. Not I but the grace of God with me
  - 1. But Paul is quick to note, it wasn't really him after all!
  
  - 2. For Paul, the final word is grace!

### **IV. We preach, you believed (11)**

- A. We Apostles – who have seen the resurrected Jesus – we preach
  
- B. And you thus believed

### **Conclusion**

- 1. This is indeed a powerful declaration of the truth of the Gospel.
  
- 2. The passage also gives a framework for our identity in Christ and our kingdom work ethic.