

THE GREATNESS OF THE RESURRECTION

THE GREATNESS OF THE GOSPEL

Reference: **1 Corinthians 15:1-24**

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The word **‘gospel’** (Old English for God’s spell), literally means ‘the story of God.’ It is the **good news**. It is the message of hope, of peace, and of grace... the message of **salvation**.

In **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**, the Apostle Paul outlines the three parts of the gospel: the **death**, the **burial**, and the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ.

Additional references: **2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 1:13, Rom. 1:16**

The gospel was first on the lips of our Lord when He began His ministry and the gospel was the last thing Jesus talked about before ascending to Heaven.

References: **Mark 1:15; Mark 16:5**

I. Our REDEMPTION in the Gospel

- A. It is in the blood of Christ where we find our redemption (the payment for our sins) and it is at the cross where we find Him bleeding for sin.
- B. The cross offers an exchange: our sins for His righteousness; our failures for His success; our works for His grace.
- C. We cannot take what He has freely offered without leaving its antithesis at the cross. Christ died for me, but Christ did not die a martyr’s death (in order to show us an example of how to die). He died a substitutionary death – He died my death – in my place.
- D. If I never accept what He did for me, then I will never be forgiven. I must realize that what was done was personal to Him, and until it’s personal to me it is of no effect to me.
(**Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Cor. 5:21; Romans 4:24-25; Titus 2:14**).

II. Our REASSURANCE in the Gospel

- A. The three days of entombment is of vital importance to the gospel. It has a securing significance. If Christ had not been buried and sealed in a tomb (by His enemies) then rumors might still abound about some plan(s) to steal His body.
- B. The fact that the His disciples buried Him proves that He was absolutely, totally dead and that they had given up hope. They had assumed that, although it was great while it lasted, the life and ministry of Jesus was over. To them, it was finished.

- C. The three days in the tomb has a symbolic significance, too. Jesus predicted that, like a seed, He would burst forth from the ground to bear fruit. He predicted that, as a seed, He would die and come back to an even-better life.

References: **John 12:24; 1 Corinthians 15:20**

III. Our RESURRECTION in the Gospel

- A. The resurrection of Jesus Christ provided indisputable proof that He was everything He claimed to be! As Paul spoke in Corinth he presented three ‘proofs’ that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

- 1.) Their Salvation: (**vs.1-2**)

- 2.) The Old Testament Scriptures: (**vs. 3-4**) First of all means “of first importance.” The Gospel is the most important message that the church ever proclaims.

- 3.) Christ was seen by witnesses: (**vs. 5-11**)

Additional references: **Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32**.

Conclusion:

The resurrection of Jesus Christ provided indisputable proof that He was everything He claimed to be! In total, over 515 different people saw him alive after His death, entombment, and resurrection.

The best part about the resurrection is that it gives believers a proof of the payment for their sins (like a receipt). Believers can now hold the promise of their own resurrection without doubts or fears.

References: **1 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 4:14**

What you should do with the gospel:

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also **you received** and in which **you stand**, by which also you are saved, if you **hold fast that word** which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”*

Will **you believe** it?

Will **you receive** it?

Will **you stand** in it?

Will **you speak** it?