

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; <sup>2</sup>By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; <sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: <sup>5</sup>And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: <sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. <sup>11</sup>Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed" (1 Cor 15:1-11).

#### INTRODUCTION:

A. Gospel means "Good News" about Jesus Christ.

B. The G.O. S. P. E. L. – God's Only Son Provides Eternal Life

C. The G. O. S. P. E. L. – God's Only Son Purchasing Eternal Life

D. The Gospel is described as: "The Gospel of the Kingdom of God" (Matt 4:23; Mark 1:14), The "Gospel of the Grace of God" (Acts 20:24), The "Gospel of God" (Rom 1:1), The "Gospel of Christ" (Mark 1:1; Rom 1:16; 2 Cor 4:4; 10:14), The "Glorious Gospel" (2 Cor 4:4; 1 Tim 1:11), The "Everlasting Gospel" (Rev 14:6), and The "Gospel of Your Salvation" (Eph 1:13).

E. The Gospel is the Hope of the World.

It is God's message of "Good News" to a desperately sinful world in need of the Savior – Jesus Christ – The Only means by which our sins are forgiven, and Heaven is our eternal home.

I. The Importance of the Gospel (vv. 1-2)

Paul declared (to make known) the Gospel to the Corinth Church, the same Gospel which he had already preached to them. Some in the church were in danger of not continuing in the faith – they denied the very Hope of living in the presence of God.

A. The Reminder to the Church (v. 1a)

1. Paul declared the Gospel to the Corinthian Church again as if they had never heard the Gospel.

2. The Corinthian Church was familiar with the Gospel; however, a reminder was necessary.
  - The Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be retained and pondered over continuously – It is the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ.
  - How often do you ponder on the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

**B. The Reception of the Church** (v. 1b – 2)

**1. “Which also ye have received”** (v. 1b)

The Corinthians received and embraced Paul’s message about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. The Corinthians received the Gospel and acted upon it.

**3. “Where in ye stand”** “v. 1b)

This refers to the action they took after hearing the Gospel. It led to their Salvation – **“Ye are Saved”** (v. 2a).

a. The Corinthians were **“Saved”** by Believing and acting on the Gospel.

b. **“Ye are Saved”** indicates that their Salvation – and ours too – is a continuous action.

4. Paul informed the Corinthians to **“Keep in Memory”** (Hold fast too), his preaching and their Salvation in Christ Jesus unless they had believed in vain.

- **Believers are to hold fast to their belief in Jesus Christ as the Savior. Stand Firm in the Lord.**

- “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)” (Heb 10:23).

- “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

**II. The Predicted Gospel** (vv. 3-4)

**A. Paul delivered to the Corinthians the Gospel which he himself received from God.**

- **“Delivered”** – means tradition – Paul passed down the message he was given by God.

**B. Paul provided four facts concerning the Gospel that he preached:**

**1. The First Fact of the Gospel:**

a. **“First of all”** means that the death of Christ was the first thing that he preached to the Corinthians.

b. Paul preached that **“Jesus died for our sins”**

Christ died for our benefit, for our sake, on our behalf, and as our substitute.

- c. **Christ died as our Sacrifice** (atonement for our sins)
    - “And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again (2 Cor 5:15).
    - “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).
  - d. **Christ died as our Ransom** (to deliver or redeem from punishment for sin).
    - “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom 3:24).
    - “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Col 1:14).
  - e. **Christ died as our Propitiation** (means by which our sins are forgiven).
    - “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God” (Rom 3:25).
    - “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).
  - f. “.... **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**” (v. 3).
2. **The Second Fact of the Gospel**
- a. Jesus was buried and arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.
  - b. **The burial of Jesus proves two important points:**
    - i. It proves that Jesus died – No person is buried unless he is dead.
    - ii. It proves the Resurrection of Christ – The empty tomb is evidence that Christ arose from the dead.
  - c. The resurrection of Jesus Christ assures the Believer that he too shall be raised from the dead.

**C. The Third Fact of the Gospel** (vv. 5-7)

**There were eyewitnesses to the Resurrection of Christ:**

1. The Resurrected Christ was seen by Cephas (Peter) – (v. 5a)
2. The Resurrected Christ was seen by “the twelve” (v. 5b) – a common term used to refer to the Apostles of Christ. Judas was dead – he committed suicide.
3. The Resurrected Christ was seen by more than 500 Believers at one time (v. 6).
4. The Resurrected Christ was seen by James and “then of all the Apostles” (v. 7).

#### **D. The Fourth Fact of the Gospel (vv. 8-10)**

The Resurrected Christ was seen by Paul himself.

- The Gospel of Christ is desperately needed by the world. There is only **One Gospel** that is to be preached and Believed for Salvation – That Gospel is the **Gospel of Jesus Christ** (v. 11).

#### **MEMORY VERSES:**

- **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).**
- **“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31).**
- **“<sup>6</sup>I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: <sup>7</sup>Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But 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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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” (Gal 1:6-10).**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. The Gospel of Jesus Christ – His death, burial and resurrection is the Only Gospel that offers eternal life.**
- B. As Believers, we have a Gospel to declare for it is “the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom 1:16).**

#### **CHALLENGE:**

**Share the Gospel of Christ with lost friends, relatives, and others that you come in contact with – invite them to church – give them a Gospel Tract – let them know that Jesus wants to be their Savior.**

From the Teaching Ministry of:  
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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**