

The Ultimate Remedy For The Ultimate Problem

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1Co 15:1-8

Now I would remind you, brothers & sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, (2) and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (8) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Happy Easter... He is Risen!

We celebrate Good News!

Has good news ever come to your ears?

~ on bended-knee, she says yes to your marriage proposal. - to you who have battled a lonely broken heart of singleness.

~ "Im pregnant"... its a boy / girl (ME, as the last of 7 it was "its another"...

I've got the house / job of my dreams", says the hard-working graduate student

"We are the Champions" says Red Sox Nation in 2004, after an 86 year drought!

All Good News...

BUT TODAY, TOMORROW, ALL YEAR LONG we celebrate a SUPERIOR GOOD NEWS!

The Death of the Son of God for our sins and His resurrection fro the dead!

To understand and feel the weight of this god news you must first understand and feel the weight of the context...the problem, into which this news appears...that makes it truly good.

God's displays His Glory in creation (i could spend an hour there...)
Man rebels against his Creator...and because of His rebellion, mankind is plummeted into a pit of despair...ruin, sin, brokenness..towards his Creator & his fellow man.

Gen 6.5 The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

In a sense, the Good news of this day is the answer to the misery that in one way or another has affected every one of us here.

The Bible picture is simple:

God created VERY GOOD - man became BADLY BROKEN - God in Christ COMPLETELY FIXES that which is severely broken, namely our souls in relation to our God.

So Paul here in 1 Cor 15 brings true good news to bear upon his hearers.

This good news is the core - the heartbeat - the pulse of The Christian message. This good news centers around the Person and work of Jesus Christ...not around you, not around me.

Its ALL ABOUT JESUS, ONLY ABOUT JESUS AND ALWAYS ABOUT JESUS...Particularly around His death and resurrection for us!

This is the heartbeat of CC, FCC & HCC...see Program for more information.

We speak this morning of BIG things: God becomes a man...lives a sinless, perfect holy life...dies on a Roman cross to absorb the wrath of God against sin..taking it away...and rises from the dead! NO SMALL CATEGORIES....WHAT< REALLY???????

Big things, Redwoods, Classics, Titans...

Here is **A reminder, a demonstration, a proclamation and of something big:**

The entire worlds, only, all-time, best ever, all-triumphant good news of the Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

In this passage we see:

I. This Good news has gripping power

1Co 15:1-2 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **(2)** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain.

Paul wants to remind his friends of this gripping power for the past, present & future. It is so good it captures the very heart & soul of a person.

I remind you (now)...I preached the gospel to you (past)...you received (past)...you stand (in the present)...and by which you are being saved (present/continuous)

Hold fast to this good news of Jesus Christ.

II. The top priority of this good news: 3-4

what is the content of this good news?

1Co 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **(4)** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

A. **Jesus Died for our sins**...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

you cannot not take them away yourself...

“Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to say to us, ‘I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.’ Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size.”

John R. W. Stott, The Message of Galatians (London, 1968), page 179.

Here is Jesus bearing the wrath we deserve, taking away our sin, freely pardoning by His death!

His death is predicted in the OT according to the scriptures, the plan of God, the purpose of God. This takes place because God says so...from before time began!

Heb 9.11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. **12** He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb 10.5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but a body you prepared for me; **6** with burnt offerings and sin offerings

you were not pleased. **7** Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, O God.’ ”

1 Pet 3.18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God....

He absorbs the wrath, taking away sin...to freely forgive you, me...

B. **He rises from the dead** according to the scriptures, the plan & purpose of God!

the grave cannot hold Him, Death is vanquished. The Author of Life Rises & reigns

This is preached throughout the known world:

This is Change! from death to life....

He is alive!

1Co 15:51-55 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (53) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (54) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Oh how He was changed...from dead to living...

And so as the Master goes...so His followers go...

III. His appearance changes us to

IV. 1Co 15:5-8 and that he **appeared** to Cephas, then (**He appeared**) to the twelve. (6) Then he **appeared** to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he **appeared** to James, then (**He appeared**) to all the apostles. (8) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he **appeared** also to me.

Here we have 6 "APPEARANCES"...this was not done in a corner for a select person to see...put a public demonstration of His dying...and a public demonstration of His rising from the dead.

He appeared...they changed!

From cowards, full of fear and with no hope!

Even Paul: from a hater of God to a lover of God...to a poet of God as he proclaims again the glorious riches of His grace...

But notice the closing phrase of this passage...and with this I'll close:

V. he appeared also **to me**.

Do you say that for yourself? Has He appeared to you through the eyes of Faith?

This is the good news: The Death & resurrection of Jesus Christ for sinners...even me...even you...

Let's Pray