



**"Easter 2022"**  
**Wk. 1 He Died for Sins According to the Scriptures**  
**By Pastor Jody May 04/09/2022**

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## **1 Corinthians 15:1-5 ESV**

### **The Resurrection of Christ**

**15** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

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### **[INTRO]**

We are beginning a two-week study on this small passage from 1 Corinthians, one day we will come back and do a full study of 1 & 2 Corinthians. I really like the book and believe it is a proper reflection of the church in America today, so it has a lot of relevancies for us right now. My prayer over the next couple of weeks is that we see the importance of the Gospel, the main idea of the Gospel, and that the Gospel doesn't work unless we embrace the value of Scripture. I believe we will benefit from it, God will be glorified, and in years to come it will protect this church from some of the problems the church in Corinth was experiencing.

Corinth is a CRAZY TOWN. It was a capital for trade in its' area for it sat in the middle of a land bridge between Athens on one side and Sparta on the other.





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This was an important site for the early church for it was the middle of a hub for their evangelizing of the territories that were in Greece. But being in Greece and only 45 miles down the road from Athens meant this church had some problems.

First being so close to Athens, the philosophical and anthropological teaching center for the world, they had heavy influences of humanistic (pagan) trends. By reading 1 Corinthians you can see some of those trends particularly when it came to sexual desires, the pride in public personas, the uncaring attitude towards those considered underneath you, and the pursuing of pleasure 1<sup>st</sup> and the adhering to Christian Doctrine 2<sup>nd</sup>. *"The Corinthians were simply trying to be Christians with a minimal amount of social and theological disturbance."* – Ciampa & Rosner<sup>1</sup> That sounds to me they were the first evangelicals. Secondly, this church was mostly Gentile and did not have the early Jewish influences which would have helped them in learning how to adhere to the scriptures (OT) as compared to some of the other earlier churches back in, Asia Minor (Turkey) and Samaria, or present-day Israel.

When we read Paul's letter to Corinth it becomes clear that he has already visited there. He wrote the letter from Ephesus between 53-54 BC after he had visited Corinth only a couple of years earlier between 50-51 BC. By the length and topics of the letter it seems that Paul didn't have time to teach all the ins and outs of being a Christian, so this letter was a compilation of Christian moral teachings, and it is really good. The best part, and I have heard it said the most important part of this letter, is right here in Chp. 15.

This chapter sums it all up, all of Paul's exhortations on how to love one another, pursuing righteousness and holiness, refraining from idolatry, etc. here in Chp. 15 Paul tells the Corinthians why; Why do you want to do this, what makes this so important? Paul is going to tell us in the first 4-5 verses these truths: That the Gospel is **paramount** for all of life, that we are saved by it by through **adhering** to God's Word, and the first-most important part of the

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<sup>1</sup> Ciampa, R. E., & Rosner, B. S. (2010). [\*The First Letter to the Corinthians\*](#) (p. 5). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.



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Gospel is the **Cross**. So, if I had to tie those three things together today, I guess I would say:

**"How we treat God's Word reflects how much we think of the Gospel."**

That's an extremely important reality. Currently in our world, in our culture specifically, there are many churches claiming to hold a high value on the scripture, but their actions speak otherwise. They highlight sections they like, ignore the parts they don't, and use it as a tool to justify their positions.

This past week Tom Ascol, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, FL., and president of *Founders Ministry* and the *Institute of Public Theology* published an article explaining the dangers of a church that claims to hold to the Bible without really being obedient unto it.<sup>2</sup>

They are **Theoretical Inerrantists**.

What do I mean? I mean that the spirit of the evangelical, inerrantist age in which we live is increasingly characterized by a satisfaction of verbal affirmations and signatures on documents rather than by lives lived in humble submission and conformity to Scripture.

What good is an inerrant Bible if you refuse to read and heed it? Who cares if a person has signed ten thousand affirmations of inerrancy and orthodoxy if he does not seek to order his life according to the plain teaching of Scripture?

What difference does your affirmation of inerrancy make if

- you endorse a conference that promotes "gay Christianity"
- you bring godless entertainment into your services of gathered worship of the Triune God
- you cover up the abuse of victims in your church or institution
- you are content to have half or more of your church members never even attending gathered worship

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<sup>2</sup> <https://founders.org/2020/06/22/theoretical-inerrantists/>



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- you refuse to lead your church to obey Jesus' words in Matthew 18:15-18
- you refuse to repent honestly and straightforwardly over sin and choose rather to offer half-hearted apologies or excuses that attempt to cloud over or mitigate your offense (*I never plagiarized*)
- you hesitate or even refuse plainly to call sin what the Bible calls sin
- you advocate as righteousness what the Bible does not call righteous
- you imbibe ideologies that are not according to Christ rather than exposing and contending against them
- you refuse to embrace your God-given role in the family, church, and state

The issue that Pastor Tom is pointing out is that you **don't have a church** with any **true spiritual life** unless you treat God's Word as the **"Living" not "Dead"**.

#### Hebrews 4:12 ESV

For the word of God is **living** and **active, sharper** than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Paul saw the fundamental issue in the church at Corinth, they were Christians in theory but not practice yet. They had been living the faith out long enough to know it didn't congeal with their prior lives and it was causing friction in that body. This was a crucial moment for Corinth, would they cling to what they had been taught or would they fall back into the world. Paul's answer for them was to cling/adhere to the Living Word of God, believe in it, and put oneself under the Truth of it. I may seem old fashion when I say this but **if it was good enough for the church of Corinth's day then it is good enough for us!**

Now let's go back to our text and examine Paul's answer for the Church of Corinth for I believe in the power of God's Word.



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**1. The Gospel is Paramount for the Church.**

<sup>1</sup>Now I would **remind** you, **brothers**, of the **gospel** I preached to you, which **you received**, in which **you stand**, <sup>2</sup>and by which **you are being saved**,

**Gospel -**

εὐαγγέλιον (*euangelion*). n. neut. **good news, message of God's salvation.** *In the NT, refers specifically to the good news about Jesus.*<sup>3</sup> This word for Paul means everything, it is what set Him free from the world. The power for the first 14 chapters of 1 Corinthians is not positive thinking, it is not stoicism, it is not just try harder. The **power** and **hope of change** for Corinth will come from that which they **first believed** the **Gospel**. The need for it, the longing for it, the beauty of it, the reality of it, that a man named Jesus of Nazareth knew them, claimed them, and resumed responsibility for them personally, called them out of darkness, had procured their freedoms by His own blood, and was now working for them eternally.

**Brothers -** ἀδελφός (*adelphos*), οὐ (ou), ὁ (ho): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 278; Str 80; TDNT 1.144–1. LN 10.49 **brother**, male sibling (Mt 4:18); **2.** LN 11.23 **fellow believer**, a male and/or female, believer in the believing community (Ro 8:29).<sup>4</sup> Paul wants to awaken supernaturally other Christians to this reality expose them again to this Truth. These are not people alien to the teachings of the scriptures. They were in Paul's Sunday School classes, they listened to Him, they responded, they were baptized, they gave offerings, they were still attending. The best advice this man, this teacher, this OT scholar, guru, this NT *Yoda* could give was you need to stick with the basics for there is nothing other than the basics.

**Remind -** That word remind there γινώριζω (*gnōrizō*). vb. **to come to know, know, make known.** *Generally refers to special knowledge made known by God to humans, which in turn may be proclaimed to other humans.*<sup>5</sup> He wants to

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<sup>3</sup> Kugler, C. (2014). [Gospel](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>4</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>5</sup> Garrett, J. K. (2014). [Knowledge](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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awaken their minds to a Truth he has already taught them, he is **relying on the HS** to **open** their **eyes** to what he is about to say. BTW that's the only thing we can do when talking to people that don't get it. We all read in our passages this week in the Psalms:

**Psalm 53:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup>The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.

**1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV**

<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The **HS** is the **power** in **evangelism** not your ability to be an influencer. That's you relying on God's Word to do the talking and convicting. Without prayer and intercession for those you are talking to many times your message about the gospel will fall flat.

Paul wants to remind the Corinthian church, the corrupt church, the faulty church, the imperfect church, the church he and God loves, he wants to remind them about the Gospel. He wants to give the reason as to why they must change, why they should want to change, why they should abandon the world, why they should have hope. Paul's message would be the same thing to us, yes there are perhaps many things we need to work out in this church, **but you don't go past the Gospel to do it!** No one gets any better without going deeper into the reality of how they have been saved by Jesus. No one!

Then Paul explains the supernatural power of the Gospel and how it works in the church:

<sup>1</sup>"which **you received**, in which **you stand**, <sup>2</sup>and by which **you are being saved**,"

**You received** - The Gospel was not something you learned Corinthians from Athens and it's not heroic masculinity from Sparta. It's not a man-made reality, system of thinking, or a get rich quick scheme. It wasn't just another



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tool of Greek thought to produce enlightenment. It wasn't another way to get by in this world, partitioning another deity to pray to along with the other ones. No, you **received** it as a **gift**, that you did not **deserve!**

**Ephesians 2:8 ESV**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God,

Nothing you did brought it to you for it did not come from God but man! And if it came from God then you had nothing of value to offer Him for it. You did not barter for it, trade for it, nor even offer an I.O.U., it was given freely and you cannot give it back...

**You stand** - The Gospel was not something that weakened you, or made you look less appealing, all because you wanted the cool religions like your friends that came with all the parties, orgies, and temple prostitution rings. No, better yet, you are **stronger** for it! You are not upholding some 'willy nilly' excuse for a world view, you are girded by God's answer for the world and sin! No other religion can do this, and no other man-made scheme can cover it. There is **nothing stronger** than what the **Gospel proclaims!**

The sheer audacity of the good news of God makes grown men cry, and convinces pagan practitioners to leave everything because of its' beauty. It was Paul's answer for all the churches he wrote to. He knew the strength of the gospel for it had served Him for he had met the heart of the Gospel himself:

**John 16:33 ESV**

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But **take heart; I have overcome** the world."

Jesus is the heart of the Gospel and by His decree from resurrected lips, He can shout to all creation, "I did it!", "I owned you", "I am the man", and "all those who follow me I got your back", and "if you mess with them you will answer to me!" That's why Paul could endure all things (Phil. 2:8) because Jesus literally kept His heart pumping in Pride in what Jesus had already done!



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**You are being saved** – The Gospel was not something you read one time and forgot about. It is not about praying a prayer that you say one time in a church, walk down an aisle, get baptized and then you're good. It is not a fluffy teaching that you just get in the beginning of your Christian walk. **It is the Meat and Potatoes we need to eat every day!** We are currently being saved at this moment by the reality that God is loving you in Jesus, even when you sleep, changing the thought and tainted heart patterns you have, because He wants to get you home.

Today family, you may have come in here with high expectations placed on a job, a spouse, a vacation, a prescribe medication, to make you feel better and endure but let me ask you did you start with today with meditating and praying on what the Gospel has done for you? Do you believe God's Word that the Gospel is not only enough, but it is MORE than enough for your everyday life? The **Gospel is Paramount**, there is nothing more important for you to grasp onto than the Truth of the how and why Jesus did what He did for us. If you are not there this morning, there may be a simple but hard reason why:

## **2. The Gospel saves "IF" we Adhere to God's Word.**

<sup>2</sup>if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

**If** - εἰ (ei): usually conditional pt.; ≡ Str 1487 & 1489 & 1490 & 1499 & 1508 & 1509 & 1536—1. LN 89.65 **if** a marker of a condition, real, hypothetical, actual, or contrary to fact<sup>6</sup>. The very first word is a **marker of conditionality**, there is something that must happen in order for the next thing to happen, it is the next in succession.

**Hold fast** - 2988 κατέχω (katechō): vb.; ≡ Str 2722; TDNT 2.829—1. LN 13.150 **prevent**, hinder, restrain, keep from (Ro 1:18); 2. LN 31.48 **continue belief**, implying appropriate action (1Co 11:2; 15:2);<sup>7</sup>. Simply put means as long as you continue to believe it...

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<sup>6</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Paul is saying the Gospel Corinthians, is the power to keep changing you, you will get better don't lose heart - **'IF'** you keep believing, and according to James how does this belief work?

**James 2:18 & 26 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

<sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also **faith apart from works is dead.**

Meaning FAITH to be belief must **be doing something**: If I believe a chair can hold my weight then I will sit in it, if I believe my car will start in the morning then I will get in it and turn the key, if I believe I am safe in my bed at night I will close my eyes and drift asleep, and if I believe that Jesus has saved me and is continuing to save me, then **I will live as if I owe the man my life!** My works will show I believe in Jesus.

Many of us grew up with a false view of this belief in the Gospel by being taught a tainted doctrine of the perseverance of the saints called **once saved always saved**. That meant for every believer that was baptized that because they confessed in front of a church crowd, they could live guilt free, just call sin backsliding, and still have eternal life, that free ticket to heaven. BUT eternal life is not an unrealized thing in the future it is a **now thing**. You are being saved now, meaning you are living as if you are in the presence of God already, for you are. Meaning you and I may sin, but we are constantly moving closer to God not farther away from Him!

By adhering to the Word of God, by treating it as truthful, by treating it as authoritative, by treating it as sufficient, and treating it as Inerrant and not only pretending that it is, we will conform, we will be in subject to it, it will change us, for the Gospel compels us and tells us our belief shines in our life, our eternal life, and if we are His, we live it now!

The Gospel is not diminished but brightens over time with every life it touches for the longer a saint lives, the longer an elect suffers and endures, the longer



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a true Christian proclaims Christ and turns their back on this world, the Brighter that life becomes and the more powerful a testimony grows to call those that are in the dark into marvelous light!

The Gospel saves and it saves BIG **'IF'** we continue to adhere, be obedient, to the Living Word of God. That is exactly why as Highlanders the best thing I can do for you, besides preach, is to emphasize and encourage you all to read your Bibles daily, so that you will continue in your sanctification. There are so many different things vying for your attention today; internet streaming, binge watching shows, Tik Tok/Reals, Gaming, Social Media, the world has a plan to get you away from the Word, that is to fill the sponge of our brain with images of secular culture tricking us into thinking, *Oooh shiny!* **Nothing that this world has to offer you can keep you from Hell but everything in the Bible was put there to lead you to the one who can!** With that I want to offer this last point which will help you focus when you read God's Word.

**3. The Foundational message of the Gospel is the Cross, according to the Scriptures.**

<sup>3</sup>For I **delivered** to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died** for our **sins** in **accordance** with the **Scriptures**,

Paul **delivers**, because the Gospel needs a messenger, someone to take it and preach it to people.

**Romans 10:14-15 ESV**

<sup>14</sup> ... And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Isaiah 52:7)

What was this great delivery, the first importance, the place where you need to start, the focus of the Gospel, what is the foundation of this good news, which is bad news for the world and good news for His people? What is this same gift that Paul received, that changed him, that was able to get his attention off his life and put it onto the things of God?



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that **Christ died** for our **sins** in **accordance** with the **Scriptures**,

This week, this Friday I want you to remember and believe in the most important aspect of the Gospel the cross of Jesus Christ, and remember this, the Bible, the OT, told about it ahead of time, it alluded to what it was accomplishing, and if you take that as Truth, the Gospel will be real to you. What was it that Paul was alluding to?

- Gen 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." - **Proto Euangelion** the first Gospel, God had promised He would save us since the fall.
- Gen.22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." - Abraham prophesied how God would work for His people as a **Substitutionary Atonement** and on that same mountain side thousands of years later God provided a once and all substitutionary atonement for us at Calvary.
- Is. 53: 1-5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." - Jesus would be our **Propitiation for sin**, he would take the full weight and wrath of our rebellion and offer His life in place for us.

*"A sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor."* - Wayne Gruden

This is what changed Paul's heart and it is what kept him enduring so much turmoil and what gave him so much joy, that he willingly died for that which he first received.

This is all Paul has to give his beloved church, to remind them this is the foremost importance of the Gospel that Jesus dies for sinners willingly.

This is all Paul has to give us, this is all God will give us, we are all reminded supernaturally by the HS, that this is for us, and if we start everyday going back to the Gospel, we will continue to be saved.



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**[CHALLENGES]**

This morning, will you commit again to making the Gospel Paramount in your life. Will you read the Bible not as a road map for life but as a love letter to His people, a covenant of life, and a certificate of pardon for our sins?

This morning, will you make an effort to commit to the regular reading of scripture, to place Christ and His deeds in the middle of everything you read. Will you look at the Bible in every story and see the need for Christ, in the lives of the people understanding it is the same need for Him in your life?

This morning, keep it central in your hearts, and put all your hope in Christ, and remember no matter what you hear in the news, no matter what happens in your life, God is saving you by His Word reminding you how much He loves you in the beauty of the Glorious Cross.

**[PRAYER]**

**[COMMUNION]**

**[BENEDICTION]**

Go in the name of the Father, that gave up His Son as the sacrifice on the cross so that He may save sinners.

Go in the name of the Son, that offered of His life freely in payment for our sins so that He may have siblings.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that reminds us supernaturally of the paramount importance of the cross, and compels us to share that good news.