

Session 21 | Dr. Randy White | The Work that Saves | 1 Corinthians 15:1-26

The Good News Proclaimed and Believed | vv. 1-2

- Verse 1
 - **I declare** - The word is more literally, "to make known," as it is translated in many other passages, including Romans 16:26. The root is γινωσκω [ginosko], which is inherently a knowledge word.
 - The Gospel which I preached –
 - Both **gospel** and **preached** are based on the word ευαγγελιον [euangelion].
 - Literally, the text says "the good news message which I good news messaged."
 - We would at times say, "I evangelized," (a word which comes to English from *euangelion*).
- Verse 2
 - **By which also are ye saved** - Paul literally says, "through which ye are being saved," which is more precise theology since full salvation doesn't come until the glorification of the body.
 - If ye keep in memory...
 - **Keep in memory** is literally "hold fast."
 - The **if** is not given in an if/then form of grammar, as used in the English language, but rather a "since you hold fast."

The Heart of the Gospel | vv. 3-11

- The death of Christ (v. 3)
 - **According to the scriptures** - Ge. 3:15. Ps. 22; 69. Is. 50:6; Is 53. Da. 9:26. Zec. 12:10; 13:7.
- The burial of Christ (v. 4) - The Scripture gives a great amount of detail about His burial. This is a means of saying, "He was really dead."
- The resurrection of Christ (v. 4-8) –
 - He died **According to the Scriptures** - Ps. 16:10, Is. 53:10, John 2:22, Acts 2:25-33
 - Evidence of the resurrection – vv. 4-8
 - Paul's personal testimony – vv.

The Essential of the Gospel | vv. 12-19

- Verses 12-14 - Our faith is in vain if there is no resurrection.
 - We should not say, "I would live the Christian life even if it wasn't true."
 - If we don't believe in the resurrection, we should find another savior.
- Verses 14-16 – If there is no resurrection, then Christians are false witnesses.
- Verses 17-19 – our miserable condition if the Gospel essential of resurrection is not real.

The Future of the Gospel | vv. 20-26

- Verse 21 – Christ is the **firstfruits of them that sleep**. That is, there are more resurrections yet to come.
- Verse 22 – Death in Adam, life in Christ.
- Verses 23-26 – the order of the future
 - **At his coming** - the "dead in Christ" shall live. This can be both reference to the rapture and the Second Coming.
 - The end of the Kingdom era, during which time **all enemies** will be **under his feet**. This removes any possibility of verse 22 speaking of a universal salvation.
 - **Death** itself will be **the last enemy** in the renewal God brings to the earth.

What about today?

- Christ has ascended to heaven, where he sits at the right hand of God, waiting.
- Scripture gives the prophetic plan of what will happen next:
 - The rapture
 - The tribulation
 - The salvation of Israel
 - The second coming
 - The Kingdom of God
 - The victory over the last enemy, death.

The work that saves

- When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we are believing in a salvation by works—but it is His work, not ours.