**Good News!**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 6th, 2019

Text: I Cor. 15:1-11

### Intro

1. *Luke 24:13-27:* The good news spreading from Jerusalem was that Jesus was alive!
2. Paul made the point that Christ rose from the dead is the cornerstone of the gospel and our faith
   1. I Cor. 15:1-11: The risen Christ is the Good News (gospel)!
   2. I Cor. 15:13-19: If Christ wasn’t raised from the dead, our faith is in vain.
3. Christ died and then arose! The good news that brings salvation to all men!

#### I Cor. 15:1-11

* 1. 15:1
     1. Paul reminds them they heard the gospel from him and they stand in it.
     2. Gal. 1:11-12: Paul affirmed the gospel is not from men; received it from Christ.
  2. 15:2
     1. The gospel saves! (Rom. 1:16; I Pet. 1:23)
     2. No one can hope to be saved apart from the gospel of Christ!
        1. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” *(Jn. 14:6)*
     3. One must hold fast the word of God – if not, then faith is in vain.
     4. Paul was getting the Corinthians to agree that:
        1. They had believed the gospel preached to them *(15:1).*
        2. They were standing firm in their faith *(15:1).*
        3. They were saved by it, IF they held fast!
  3. 15:3
     1. Christ died for our sins ACCORDING to the Scriptures (Not by “accident”).
     2. Paul explains the difference of the gospel from the Jewish expectation:
        1. The Jews expected (wanted) the Messiah to establish an earthly, physical kingdom. (Acts 1:6; Jn. 18:36)
        2. The Scriptures never taught that, instead they taught a “suffering Savior.” (Is. 53:11-12; Acts 3:18)
     3. Jesus and the apostles taught that the Scriptures pointed to His death:
        1. Lk. 24:44-46; I Pet. 1:10-12
  4. 15:4
     1. He was buried and rose on the third day ACCORDING to the Scriptures.
        1. Ps. 16:10; Mt. 12:40; Lk. 24:4-7, 44-46
     2. Peter quoted from Ps. 16:10 in his sermon on Day of Pentecost *(Acts 2:27).*
     3. Paul is strengthening their faith by stating these events were foretold in the Scriptures, and were revealed to him by Christ *(I Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:12).*
     4. “Death cannot keep his prey” (“Christ Arose!” by Robert Lowry): The tomb was found empty! Christ Arose!

(Heb. 2:14-15: He broke the power of death for everyone!)

* 1. 15:5
     1. Begins the eye witness' accounts of Christ’s return from the dead.
     2. Seen by Cephas (Peter) and the twelve – Lk. 24:34-40
     3. Mt. 28:7-10: An angel told the women to tell the disciples He was raised from the dead, and will meet them in Galilee.
     4. Mt. 28:16: Jesus met the apostles in Galilee just as he had instructed them to go
     5. Acts 1:3: Jesus appeared to them over a period of 40 days!
  2. 15:6
     1. He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once!
        1. At time of Paul’s writing, many of them were still alive (could be verified)!
  3. 15:7
     1. He was seen by James.
     2. This is James, the Lord’s brother – Gal. 1:18-19
     3. Before His suffering and death, His brothers didn’t believe in Him – Jn. 7:5
     4. Acts 1:12-14: After His resurrection, James and his brothers became believers!
     5. James was a strong believer and pillar in the church at Jerusalem *(Acts 15; Gal. 2:9)* & wrote the book of James, and his brother Jude *(Mt. 13:55)* wrote Jude*.*
  4. 15:8-9
     1. Seen by the apostle Paul (Acts 9:3-6).
     2. “One born out of due time.”
        1. From the spiritual standpoint, he had not been a disciple during the lifetime of Christ; his apostleship was not the norm (Acts 1:21-22).
     3. “The least of the apostles.”
        1. He considered himself least because he persecuted the church (Acts 22:4).
        2. He was comparing his past with the other apostles.
        3. The other apostles had been with Jesus during His ministry and witnessed many miracles! *(Acts 1:21-22)*
        4. Paul had done what he could to destroy Christianity:
           1. Held garments of those stoning Stephen *(Acts 7:58).*
           2. Consented Stephen’s execution *(Acts 8:1).*
           3. Cast saints in prison, and cast his vote against them to be put to death *(Acts 26:10).*
           4. Persecuted them to foreign cities, “compelled” them to blaspheme *(Acts 26:11).*
     4. This is why he considered himself “not worthy to be called an apostle.”
     5. I Tim. 1:15: He recognized the saving power of the gospel in his own life! (Gal. 1:22-24: The gospel saved him and caused people to glorify God!)
  5. 15:10-11
     1. God’s grace was NOT in vain!
     2. He recognized where he had been and, by the grace of God and the saving power of the gospel, where he wanted to be!
     3. He labored more abundantly to that end – II Tim. 4:6-8
  6. Our faith can be strengthened by the message the Corinthians heard: Christ has risen for you and for me!

## Conclusion

1. Paul was trying to get the Corinthians to see that the bodily resurrection of Jesus was the foundation of the gospel –it IS the good news! *(I Cor. 15:20: Christ has risen! – Simplicity of the gospel: II Cor. 11:3)*
2. He rose from the dead to break its power so you and I might have life eternal!
   1. Rom. 6:8-10: Christ overcame death and lives forever with God.
3. What should this prompt us to do in return?
   1. Rom. 6:11-13: Die to sin and live for Christ!
4. Like Paul let us labor for the goal, so that God’s grace is not in vain in our lives! *(I Cor. 15:10; II Tim. 4:6-8)*
5. The good news of the gospel is that Christ arose! That gospel cornerstone should strengthen our faith and resolve to obey Him!
6. If not obeyed Him yet, repent, be baptized, and hold fast to His word!
7. If a Christian, let your life show it – live *for* Him now so we may ever live *with* Him!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!