

1 Corinthians 39 – 15:1-4

The Gospel that Saves

1. Introduction

- a. This is the longest chapter and the most important “strife” in 1 Corinthians
- b. It is our duty to have this message right, it is where Satan operates – 2 Cor 4:3-4
- c. The one time their salvation could be doubted is here with doctrine not behavior
- d. There were people who did not believe the resurrection - 1 Cor 15:12
- e. “If there is no resurrection, then we can live however we want” 1 Cor 6:13, 15:32
- f. This chapter’s correction/rebuke comes after declaring the gospel - 1 Cor 15:33

2. 15:1 - Declaring the Gospel

- a. “Moreover” - a continuation of 1 Cor 4:15-16, and 14:37 to settle a doctrinal issue
- b. “the gospel” - The simplest presentation of the preaching of the cross: 1 Cor 1:18
- c. It is by the cross that grace is provided = gospel of the grace of God - Acts 20:24
- d. It was Christ who was on the cross = gospel of Christ – Rom 1:16
- e. The death of Christ was ordained as glory to us = glorious gospel – 2 Cor 4:4
- f. “which I preached” - Paul first ministered the gospel to them, not someone else.
- g. “wherein ye stand” – by grace through faith - Romans 5:2, 2 Cor 1:24, Gal 5:1
- h. They were tempted to stand on man’s wisdom instead of God’s – 1 Cor 2:2-5

3. 15:2 - Believed in Vain

- a. “ye are saved” – this gospel is what saves. Not love of God, or “doing better”
- b. It saves when it is preached, it is not a lifestyle, desire, or feeling – 1 Cor 1:21
- c. It saves you from something (attn: Corinthians) – your sins.
- d. It must be heard and trusted in order for you to be saved - Eph 1:13
- e. “if ye keep” - If they did not have Paul’s gospels in memory, it was vain.
- f. “believed in vain” - what they believed was vain, this is not gospel Alzheimer’s
- g. This is not the holding fast of the Hebrews: Heb 2:1, 3:6, 14, 4:14, 10:23, 2Pet 1:10
- h. Other gospels produced vain belief: Gal 1:6-9; 1 Cor 3:20; 2 Cor 11:4
- i. The possibility of vain belief among them is defined in 1 Cor 15:12-14

4. 15:3-4 – Christ Died for Our Sins

- a. “I received” This is the same thing he says in 1 Cor 11:23 as “of the Lord”
- b. Received not of men, but by the Lord – Eph 3:1-2, Col 1:25, Gal 1:1, 11-12
- c. Paul did not receive it from Peter, who did not glory in this like Paul - Gal 2:2,7
- d. Paul’s gospel is glorious because of the mystery – Col 1:27, Gal 6:14
- e. “Christ died for our sins” as good news - Gal 1:4, Eph 1:7, Rom 3:25, 5:6-8
- f. Nothing is added to faith for salvation now because of God’s grace - Eph 2:8-9
- g. Faith’s object is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Rom 4:25-26
- h. This simple gospel is confused, blurred, denied, ignored, omitted, and distorted.