

The Gospel. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

Introduction: Paul starts in chapters twelve through fourteen discussing spiritual gifts. In chapter fifteen he reminds them what it is that saves: the gospel.

I. The Gospel Implies God's Foreknowledge

- A. Many things have changed since the first century
Social media, countries, machinery
- B. Mankind's needs have remained the same
Security, forgiveness, reconciliation to God, purpose
- C. God know man's greatest need
1 Peter 1:2 We are elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek

II. The Gospel Implies That God Loves Mankind

- A. The gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection, 1 Cor. 15:1-6
God loves us, John 3:16
- B. God has shown his love to us
Romans 5:6-8 scarcely for righteous will one die, for good some dare to die, while sinner, Christ. Died for us.
Death, Burial, Resurrection
Romans 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?
4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so also should walk in newness of life

III. The Gospel Implies That We Cannot Save Ourselves

- A. We are powerless to save ourselves
Not intellect, political power, social standing, education, material things
Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts

- B. From a humanistic standpoint we are nothing more than material
Implications of evolution, man treats man roughly

IV. The Gospel Implies Mankind Can Respond To The Gospel

- A. The gospel places confidence in man
- B. Sin does not make you incapable of responding
Some are not moved by the gospel
1 Corinthians 1:20-24 Jews see it as a stumbling block, Greeks as foolishness.
Some do obey,
Acts 18:8 Crispus, ruler of synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized.
Why? See the parable of the sower,
Luke 8 hard, rock, thorns, good

V. The Gospel implies God uses man to save man

- A. Jesus commanded us to go and preach the gospel
Mark 16:15
- B. Why does the Lord use us?
It shows our love for God and others
Jeremiah 20:9 I will not mention him, but it was fire in my bones.
We can sympathize with the lost.

Conclusion: Why not obey right now?

In Decency and In Order

1 Corinthians 14:40

Man was made to live in peace, Genesis 2, but sin pulled us out of the garden

I. The Church is the Isle of Peace in a Chaotic World

A. People's Every Thought is On Evil

Genesis 6

Romans 1

1 John 2:15-16

B. The Church is a place of Peace

From sinfulness, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 1:5

Among mankind, Ephesians 2:14, Galatians 3:28

For purpose, John 14:6, Matthew 6:33

II. Christians Need To Be At Peace With One Another

A. In our worship

1 Corinthians 12-14: 14:40

B. In Our daily lives

Matthew 18: forgiveness

John 13:35 Love on another

Galatians 6: Bear one another's burdens

C. Even toward outsiders

Be kind to those who hurt you

Preach the gospel: effects seen in Philemon

III. How to Be at Peace in the Church

A. Keep Priorities (Ray Paseur illustration)

I preach Christ and him crucified

Build up the brethren

B. Leaders would lead in Christ

No room for power or jealousy

Create people to follow you (Paul to Timothy)

Be examples to the flock

C. Members who love the church

What will you leave behind? I have run the race, etc.

What can you do to make things better

How do you glorify God?