



EASTER SUNDAY 2018

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

4.1.2018

1. THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS THAT DEMANDS A RESPONSE

GOOD NEWS (NOT GOOD ADVICE)

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-2 1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...

- **Q.** Do you like it when someone misunderstands you? Neither do I. And I don't think God likes it, either.
- **One big misunderstanding about Christianity in general is that the gospel is essentially Good Advice;** you want a better life? Do this. You want more personal satisfaction? Do that. You want a legit family? Follow these steps, etc. Do you want to know that God accepts you? Obey His rules the best you can. But there couldn't be anything farther from the truth.
- **The Gospel is not good advice; it's Good News.** Advice says "Do this!" Gospel says "This's already been done!"
- **Advice is when you're diagnosed with a terrible disease & return to the doctor for your second visit and he says, "We can beat this. Here's the plan; here's the diet; here's the procedure." Good News is when the doctor says, "You're healed. It's done. There's nothing left to do except live differently now that you're cured!"**
- **Don't misunderstand what God is saying through the Apostle Paul.** The foundation of Christianity is based on Good News; not good advice.
- **Q.** Is your life fueled by Good News about what Jesus has done or burdened by Good Advice about what you should do?

(GOOD NEWS) THAT DEMANDS A RESPONSE

1b...which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

- **Q.** Why do we need to "receive", "stand" in, and "keep being saved" as we hold fast to this good news?
A1. The simplest answer is because things **AREN'T AS THEY SHOULD BE**, and through this Good News, God is redeeming all of Creation—all those who will receive, stand in, and hold fast to it.
A2. The more detailed answer is this: the Bible goes to great lengths to reveal a simple yet profound truth:
- **Things are not as they should be because WE are not as we should be.**
- **We have sinned against God and therefore have fractured our relationship with Him, with one another, with ourselves, and with the whole created order.**
- **EFFECTS OF SIN = We have a scarred relationship with *ourselves*—insecurity and eventual death. We have a *distorted relationship with one another*—social strife, arguments, wars, differing political views, racism, classism. We have a *dangerous relationship with the created order*—storms, famines, dirty water, climate change, animals want to harm us. And all of this ultimately stems from the fact that we have a *fractured relationship with our Creator.***
- **We have to personally receive, stand in, be saved by, and hold fast to The Gospel because it's what God has done to redeem His fallen people and His fallen creation.**
- **Q.** Have you personally turned from your sin & received, and are you still standing in & holding fast to the gospel?
- **It's Good News that demands a response and it's been God's plan the whole time!**

2. THE GOSPEL HAS BEEN GOD'S PLAN THE WHOLE TIME

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS** in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was **BURIED**, that he was **RAISED** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

- **Cross** = Jesus took the curse for sin that makes everything sad, He became our sin & took the just judgement & wrath of God we deserve. In short, He paid our debt to God. **Resurrection** = the receipt for that purchase.
- **The Gospel is not ABOUT US and what we should be doing**; it's about Jesus and what He has done. It was long promised in the Scriptures, accomplished in His life, death, burial, and resurrection, and now proclaimed to us!
- **In addition, the Bible is not about us and what we should be doing**; it's ultimately about Jesus and what He's done! The Old Testament promises Jesus, the Gospel's are eye-witness accounts of his life, death, burial, & resurrection, and the rest of the New Testament is instruction on how to think and live like the gospel is TRUE!
- **THE GOSPEL HAS BEEN GOD'S PLAN THE WHOLE TIME, AND IT SCREAMS TO OUR MINDS AND OUR HEARTS...**

3. IF JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-8 5 ...**AND** that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

- **The Resurrection of Jesus says, "If God makes a promise; He's going to keep it."** There's no promise of God made in Scripture so **GREAT** or so **IMPOSSIBLE** that He can't or won't bring it to pass!
- **For every action there is a reaction & for every promise of God made there is a promise accomplished!**
- **There is no one so great a sinner that the resurrected Jesus is not a greater Savior! It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done**, if you turn from sin and receive Jesus, if you stand in the gospel and hold fast to it, you can be **SURE** that **JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SIN**, was **BURIED**, and **CONQUERED DEATH** for you. There's nothing He can't handle.
- **You can't out-sin the cross and you can't out-die resurrection!** "I can't out-sin the cross?" Nope: and If you see and trust what Jesus did for you on the cross, you want dare try. "I can't out-die resurrection?" Nope: no matter what pit you're in or may fall into, remember this: Jesus was once in a grave. He walked out of His so that through faith in Him we could one day walk out of ours.
- **ROMANS 8:28-30**
28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Q. What is God promising through Paul there?

- **IF WE HOLD FAST TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL,** Our bad things we work out for good, our good things can never be lost, and the best things are yet to come.