

Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:3

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures

GRACELIFE



CHURCH



A Great

SALVATION

Part 1

The Gospel of Grace

1 Corinthians 15:1-6

What is the gospel of grace? To answer, we go to **Scripture**. The *Greek* word is “*euangelion*” means “*good news*” and can be *used in different contexts*. Jesus preached the good news of the **Kingdom**: *Matthew 4:23*... This had a *different emphasis* than what Paul preached, as Christ called for *faith in Himself* to enter the Kingdom...

When you study *Rom. 15:16, 2 Cor. 2:12, 9:13, 11:7, Gal. 1:11-17, 1 Thess. 2:9*, you learn the *gospel of grace* is from the **Lord** and not man. Humans didn't invent it... It is *not man's idea*. Since it came from God, this means **He** owns it, defines it, and tells us what to do with it. We have **NO** right to change, modify, add to or subtract from it. *To do so is heresy and blasphemy against God...*

God **ordained** it, is in **control** of it, **provided** it, **calls** people to it and through the proclamation of His word, **draws** men and women of every tribe, tongue and nation to Himself. It is His plan for all people to know Him! This is why ***every generation*** in the body of Christ, must be able to **define, describe, and defend** the Gospel. The **true Gospel** is what the Apostles, early church Fathers and Christians today die for!

1 Corinthians 15:1-6 - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. 3For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4that he was

buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

1) declared it to them – it *wasn't new* and was *verbally proclaimed*; **2) received** it – they accepted, grasped, understood and held to it; **3) stand** in it – they were to live, covenant or were established by and in it; **4) saved** by it – they were delivered *spiritually* from eternal damnation...; **5) if they hold fast** – if they possessed, retained or grasped onto it...

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

Paul gives a *summary* in verses 3-6: **1)** Christ **died** for our sins, **2)** He was **buried**, **3)** He **arose** again on the third day, **4)** He was **seen** by many, **5)** According to the **Scriptures**. **5 statements that fit on one hand.** He wrote it was *according to the Scriptures* **twice**. This is the *basic Gospel*, but we must understand the Biblical definition of the words...

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

It is the: birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus *foretold in the Old Testament*. While the New Testament focuses on the **resurrection** to substantiate His perfect sacrifice in the atonement or payment for sin Jesus offered up at His death, we must *never forget* part of the gospel is the **perfect life** of Christ.

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

1. Christ died for our sins. Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, *Gen. 3*, and according to *Rom. 5* death spread to all humanity. Along with our personal sin, we are all *condemned* by God, because he is *holy* and we are *not*. *Rom. 3:23* says we all fall short or miss the mark of God's glory or perfection. **Sin** has invaded **every area of our lives**. We are **at war** with God.

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

Genesis 6:5 – Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent (*thought*) of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (*all the day*).

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

Ephesians 2:1-3 – (talking to Gentiles) And you, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince and the power of the air (*satan*), the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also **we all** once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the **other**.

Being "*dead*," was a ***Jewish figure of speech*** to state that someone was *willingly* and *purposefully* rebelling against God...

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

2. He was buried. Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb which no one had ever used. About a 2-ton rock was rolled in front of the door, His body remained for 3 days and then...

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

3. He arose again. He **physically** came back to life in the same body, **glorified**. *Romans 4:25* says Jesus ...was delivered up (*crucified*) because of our offenses (*sins*), and was **raised** because of our justification. - While the death of Christ is part of the Gospel, the *majority of the New Testament speaks more of His physical resurrection...*

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

4. He was seen by many. Verses 5-8 give an overview of the accounts of the appearances of Jesus after His resurrection... The disciples were **surprised** to see Him alive. The *Gospels, Acts 1, 4:20, 26:26, 1 John 1:1 and 3, Revelation 22:8* and more state the *disciples and others* **personally witnessed** or **knew of** *these historical events.*

A. 15:1-6 - Summary of the Gospel of Grace

5. According to the Scriptures. The Gospel began in *Gen. 3:15*; God promised One who would come and win. *Gal. 3:8* – And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the *Gentiles* by *faith*, preached the *Gospel to Abraham* beforehand, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” In *Gen. 12*, the **Abrahamic Covenant**, God preached the Gospel...

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

1. Because the Gospel is God's, He brings salvation only through it: Romans 1:16-17 -

For I am not ashamed of the **gospel, for it is the **power of God** for **salvation** to **everyone** who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous (*the just*) shall live by faith."**

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

There is ***no other way*** to be saved than through ***Jesus alone*** and ***faith in Him alone***. In some countries without God's word, He can give a vision, but that person always ***hears and believes the Gospel***. Only through faith alone in Christ alone can someone be forgiven for eternity. Only in Christ is there salvation (***Acts 4:12***) and in ***no other way...***

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 – But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our **gospel** for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

2. It is truth: Galatians 2:5, 14, Ephesians 1:13, Colossians 1:5. The Gospel is “truth.” It is **not** a lie thought up by humans. It is **not** a deception of satan. It is **not** something an individual somewhere came up with. It is **not** a mere idea I want to be true... **NO. IT IS TRUTH!**

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

3. It is hidden from those who do not believe:

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - And even if our **gospel** is **veiled**, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4**In their case the **god of this world** has **blinded** the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the **gospel** of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God...

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

4. *Believed by faith: Acts 20:21.* While the Holy Spirit must move in us, we are responsible to **believe** and place our faith in Jesus alone for salvation. We all put our faith in something or someone to go to heaven. Does that belief line up with the Bible? If not, then you **don't** have the Gospel and certainly **don't** have salvation.

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

5. A confession of Jesus as Lord: Romans 10:15-16. If I'm right there are **24 references** to Jesus as **Savior** in the New Testament. There are **many more** references to Jesus as Lord. Some say "*believe*" in Jesus as savior and later "*make*" Him Lord. Some say "*make*" Him Lord for salvation...

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

6. By God's grace through faith: Ephesians

2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of (by) works, lest (so that) no one should boast. – ***Grace*** is *being given something good we don't deserve*. It is a **gift** from the Lord, **not** through anything we do...

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

7. It is a mystery. Eph. 6:18-20. The Greek word “*mystery*” is “*musterion*” and has the idea of something that wasn’t clearly revealed in the Old Testament, but has been in the New. Though the seeds of the Gospel were in the Old Testament, the Gospel of grace and bringing together of Jew and Gentile into one group or body called the church, *under grace*, was **not understood** until Paul.

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

8. It is what we have fellowship in:

Philippians 1:5. There will be minor differences, but if someone believes the **Biblical gospel of grace**, that someone is my brother and sister in Christ.

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

9. It comes in word, power, the Holy Spirit and assurance or confidence. 1 Thess. 1:5 –

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace

These 4 things: **1. word, 2. power, 3. Holy Spirit** and **4. character of apostles**, summarize **how** God uses the Gospel, through His power and the words and life of the *person sharing it*. To say, "I will let my actions tell others I'm a Christian." is **unbiblical**. Telling people about Jesus but having a life that doesn't match is **also unbiblical**.

B. Additional Factors about the Gospel of Grace
10. Through it, God imputes the righteousness of Christ to us. 2 Corinthians 5:21 – For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. - If Jesus **only died for my sins, His death makes me **innocent**. With His resurrection, *salvation brings **justification***.**