

The Good News of the Gospel

I'm sure many preachers have said it in one way or another. I remember my friend and colleague Shane Carrington saying it this way, "Remember that the gospel is supposed to be *good news*." Sometimes we forget that. We emphasize the tremendous price paid to bring it into fruition, the notable difficulties of living according to its demands, and/or the minutia of its details until it no longer seems to be *good news*. Perhaps in these ways our *minds* are "*led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ*," 2Cor.11:3. There is an inherent *simple purity* in the *good news* of the gospel message, and this same beautiful *simple purity* is also found in *devotion* to it. Let's look together and see *the good news of the gospel* for ourselves...

The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ from 1Cor.15:1-5:

1. **"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures," v.3b.** In order for the eternal Son of God to *die*, He first had to be *born and live as a man*- He became one of us; one of His own creation, cf. Heb.2:14-15. As a human, death was inevitable, Heb.9:27. But His death had a *singular purpose*: it was "*for our sins*." You see, the *penalty* for sin is death, Rom.6:23. It has been so from the beginning, Gen.2:17. But an *imperfect sacrifice* cannot atone for or redeem from sin and its penalty. Thus, to "*die for our sins*," Jesus necessarily could have none of His own- and He didn't, 1Pet.2:21-23. Therefore, He could and did *bear "our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die and sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you (we) were healed,"* 1Pet.2:24. Jesus didn't die on the cross for our sins because "the world wasn't ready for Him" as some affirm; it was the "*predetermined plan*" and by the "*foreknowledge of God*" for Him to be "*nailed to a cross by godless men and put Him to death*," Acts 2:23. It was, as our text of 1Cor.5:3 says, "*according to the Scriptures*."
2. **"and He was buried," v.4a.** As another preacher friend of mine once said while we studied the first few verses of Rom.6 regarding the "*burial*" of baptism, "You don't bury *live* folks, you bury *dead* folks." The man, Jesus Christ, was *dead*, as confirmed by the Roman centurion both at the cross and to Pilot, cf. John 19:33-34; Mark 15:44-45. He did not merely *swoon* as some claim, He *died* and was, as we examined last week, taken down from the cross, wrapped in a linen sheet, and *buried* by Joseph of Arimathea, Mark 15:46. But...
3. **"He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," v.4b.** Jesus revealed this plainly to His disciples late in His ministry, Matt.16:21; but had alluded to it almost from its beginning, John 2:18-22. The *resurrection* was THE prominent proof of Jesus being the Messiah in early apostolic preaching, cf. Acts 2:24,32; 3:15,26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30,33,34,37; et al; because of Rom.1:4 and 1Cor.15:12ff.
4. **"He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve," vv.5ff.** The significance of His *appearances* is that it proves the resurrection; He appeared to those who knew and recognized Him, cf. John 16:20,22; 20:19-20,24-29; those who had seen Him crucified and killed. His resurrection proved who He was; His appearances to those who knew Him best proved His resurrection.

This *gospel of Jesus Christ* is *good news* to: (Acts 8:12)

- 1. Those *lost in sin*- which is everyone, Rom.3:9,23ff.**
- 2. Those *lost in life*- including some who don't even realize they're lost and haven't yet asked for directions, John 14:6.**
- 3. Those *searching for meaning and purpose in life*, 1Pet.3:8-12; 4:6.**
- 4. We don't have to set our affections, fulfillment, and hope in things here and now, 1Cor.15:19; Col.3:1-11.**

The simple conclusion: The gospel of Jesus Christ IS "*good news*" for everyone who will hear and obey it! Will you?