

Today's Message

January 14, 2018

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: ***The Non-Negotiable Gospel***

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 (ESV)

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, 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.

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, 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. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Introduction: The Corinthian church came under the influence of false teachers who denied the hope of the Christian's resurrection. Paul used the entire fifteenth chapter of this letter to challenge and correct their heretical view. In today's sermon text, he insisted that the idea of resurrection is essential to the gospel itself because Christ himself was raised from the dead.

Today's take-home truth: The resurrection of Christ is essential to the gospel message.

I. We preach one gospel. 1-2

- A. You must receive it as it is.
- B. It will uphold you and save you.
- C. But you must persevere in it.

II. Christ lies at the heart of this gospel. 3-7

- A. The gospel of Christ is the most important message.
- B. The gospel of Christ is a scriptural message:
 - 1. Christ died for our sins.
 - 2. Christ was raised from the dead.
- C. The gospel of Christ is a historical message.
 - 1. His burial attested the truth of Christ's death.
 - 2. Many eye-witnesses attested the truth of Christ's resurrection.

III. God's grace works through this gospel. 8-10

- A. The gospel saves and transforms sinners by God's grace.
- B. The gospel "runs" by God's grace.

IV. There is no other gospel. 11