

“THE GOSPEL TRUTH”
(1Corinthians 15:1-11; Acts 1:1-11)
March 26, 2017

What is the Gospel truth?

“... and this is what you believed.”

Paul reminds the church of the very reason for their existence - their common belief in the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ.

I. The PROMINENCE of the Resurrection

Paul and the other Apostles had obeyed Christ's directive to “go into all the world and share the good news.” Paul had done just that with the believers in Corinth, yet someone there (one or many) were doubting the truth of the resurrection.

He began by reminding the church that:

- 1) The resurrection of Christ is the focal point in reference to SALVATION**

To DENY the resurrection was to deny their faith and salvation.

- 2) The resurrection of Christ is the focal point in reference to the SCRIPTURES**

Christ died for our sins; he was buried; he rose again on the third day – *as the Scriptures had promised!*

This was Paul's CONDENSED version of the Gospel truth. The resurrection of Jesus was an event that REALLY happened and whose implications were enormous.

II. The PROOFS of the Resurrection

- 1) EYEWITNESSES**

The resurrected Jesus was witnessed by more than 500 at one time! That many could NOT be wrong.

The facts could be SUPPORTED by their eyewitness.

Paul reminds them that the risen Jesus appeared to “all the

Apostles.” READ Acts 1:1-11.

They watched Him return to the Father. Even better, two angels reminded them that he is COMING BACK!

2) PAUL

Paul's honesty and humility comes through. He confesses his unworthiness as one who had persecuted the early church.

God's grace and intent had made him just as POWERFUL a witness as any other.

The disciples did not EXPECT the resurrection to happen. Jesus had told them, but somehow it did not register. They were confused, fearful, disorganized and whipped. Thomas wasn't the only doubter.

They simply didn't believe the news. They had to be convinced by SOLID proof – the empty tomb, the abandoned death wrappings, the numerous visits by the risen Lord. They received hard EVIDENCE.

The church did not INVENT the resurrection story. In fact, the opposite is true. They did not at first believe, but received PROOF and personal visits from the RISEN Lord.

The facts turned their world AND our world upside down. Defeat became VICTORY. Loss became HOPE.

Easter morn became the greatest day in the history of mankind, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is true. It is fact. It is UNDENIABLE.

What are we willing to do? Are we willing to SHARE the unvarnished “Gospel truth” with others?