

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, A SAVING MESSAGE
I COR. 15:1-4

Introduction:

- A. The first letter of Paul was written as a connective epistle.
 - 1. Do not tolerate adulterers in your fellowship.
 - 2. The abuse of spiritual gifts.

- B. At this place he begins to lay groundwork to correct another error.
 - 1. v12, "some among you."
 - 2. These people were not in a majority.
 - 3. There has been much speculation about their identity
 - a. converted Sadduces.
 - b. Epicureans mentioned later. v32.

- C. It takes no special breed of man to doubt.
 - 1. A Jew may doubt.
 - 2. The weakest may become the strongest.

I. PAUL'S SAVING MESSAGE TO THE CORINTHIANS.

- A. Paul preached to them.
 - 1. "moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you."
 - 2. This was the command of Jesus.
 - 3. This is our first work.
 - 4. This message must be "preached."

- B. They received the gospel.
 - 1. "which also ye have received."
 - 2. receive = is all that we can do!

- C. The gospel is the ground on which they stood.
 - 1. "and wherein ye stand."
 - 2. Rom. 5:2.
 - 3. "All Other Ground Is Sinking Sand."

- D. It was the instrument of their salvation.
 - 1. "by which also ye are saved."
 - 2. No one will be saved other than by the gospel.

- E. They must be true believers.
 - 1. "if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."
 - 2. The three acts or requisites.
 - a. It must have made a deep intellectual impression. "If ye hold fast."
 - b. It must be accepted as truth. "What I preached"
 - c. It must be accepted in faith.

II. THE ESSENTIALS TO PAUL'S MESSAGE OF SALVATION.

- A. Paul hand delivered a message. v3.
 - 1. The gospel was not Paul's idea.
 - a. "for I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received."
 - 2. Paul transmitted what he received.
 - a. delivered = paradidomi - to give or hand over to another.
 - b. Gal. 1:11-12.

- B. The first truth in the gospel.
 - 1. "how that Christ died for our sins."
 - 2. Rom. 3:23-26.
 - 3. The first in order, not in importance.

- C. This was, "according to the Scriptures."
 - 1. The fact that the Messiah would die.
 - 2. Luke 24:29-27. "Jesus taught His resurrection."
 - 3. Acts 26:22-23.
 - 4. Jesus must do all "according to the Scriptures."

- D. The second truth of the gospel.
 - 1. "and that he was buried."

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2. There was no "swooning," or "fainting."
3. He died and he was "buried."

E. The third truth of the gospel.

1. "and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."
2. Acts 17:1-3.
3. The promised One arose from the grave.

III. THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S SAVING MESSAGE.

A. It is God's power.

1. Rom., 1:16.

b. It is our message!

1. Why preach anything else for a plan of salvation if this is God's?

