

Romans 1:16/1 Corinthians 15:1-8

I am going to assume that, other than those who are fully devoted followers of Christ, there are 6 types of individuals here today. I want you to see if you find yourself in any of these groups. There are the...

1. Disbelievers—you don't believe the gospel..or you don't believe it is the only way.
2. Disinterested—you don't care. You are living for this life and you are going to get the most fleshly pleasure and fulfillment you can get out of it and hope it all turns out ok in the end.
3. Distracted—you like the gospel, and want to believe and embrace it, you just don't have time. You are distracted with so much—work, family, fun, money matters, trials and troubles.
4. Disillusioned—hypocrites have turned you off to the gospel so you think it is all just a waste
5. Deceived—you have been inoculated. False sense of assurance.
6. Doubter—you have believed, received, and embraced, but you just can't be sure. It is not that you have a false sense of assurance. You have **no** assurance.

Which of the 6 categories do you find yourself in?

1. Think about it.
2. Maybe a mixture of 2 or 3...that is ok.
3. The prescription for all of us is the same: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

READ/PRAY

Do you understand the gospel message?

1. If you have never understood the gospel, then how could you possibly have ever really embraced the gospel?
2. And if you have never really been capable of embracing the gospel, how could you have possibly ever experienced the power of God for salvation.
3. If the gospel is the power of God for salvation, we cannot be saved without understanding and embracing it.

The first thing that we need to do, as we consider this verse, and the gospel message, is make sure that we have a clear understanding.

1. This is where we will spend the bulk of our time this morning
2. And one of the clearest definitions of the gospel message is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
3. Hold your place in Romans 1...we will be coming back....and turn with me to 1 Cor. 15.

*1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which 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 according to the Scriptures, 4 and **that He** was buried, and **that He** was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and **that He** appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After **that He** appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 **then He** appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.*

In this text there are 6 “that Christ” or “that he/then He” statements that help us outline the gospel message. Verse 3, 4, 4, 5, 6, and 7. These 6 statements can be simplified to 2.

1. **He died for our sins and was buried** v3-4a

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried,

He died for our sins (because of our sins) and was buried...

1. Our sin deserves death.
2. Paul makes this clear back in Romans 1 where he unfolds for us the progression of our sinfulness.

Romans 1:28-32

Paul in the prior verses has pointed out that mankind moves from having Darkened Hearts, to Dishonored bodies, to degrading passions, and now to depraved minds in verses 28-32 to lead us to sin deserving of death.

*28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are **worthy of death**, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

3. We deserve to die because of our sin!

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death*

1. To get the death penalty for a sin like murder is one thing...but gossip? Arrogance? Envy? Disobeying our parents? That doesn't seem just!
2. **It is not the size of the sin, but the status of the one you have sinned against.**
 - a. I can punch a normal citizen...or I can punch the president, but there will be two very different consequences.
 - b. Same action...different objects!
 - c. It is not the size of the sin, but the status of the one you have sinned against.
3. The wages of sin against a holy God is death!

But here, we learn that someone else died for our sins...not us! v3-4a

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried

1. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

2. THE GOSPEL

- a. Since our sin was against a perfect God, only a perfect sacrifice could fully pay for that sin.
- b. You can not do enough good to correct the problem that God has with you and your sin

3. For nothing good have I whereby thy grace to claim
I'll wash my garments white in the blood of Calvary's Lamb
Jesus paid it all...all to him I owe. Sin had left a Crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

He died for our sins and was buried.

2. He was resurrected and he appeared v4b

and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

The resurrection was the Father's announcement that He had received and approved of His sacrifice.

1. If He failed to resurrect, we can't believe anything Jesus said.
2. If He failed to resurrect, why are we even here this morning?
3. If He failed to resurrect we have 0 hope!
4. 1 Cor 15:14-17 *and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*

He was resurrected and He appeared! In fact, He was seen by many according to 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

1. This is one of Paul's first letters!
2. Some of those 500 who saw Jesus were still alive and could have said, Paul is lying!!
3. But they did not.
4. If they could have paraded the body of Jesus through the streets on that Sunday afternoon, Christianity would have been doomed
5. Instead of a body, they found men and women testifying... "I saw Him!" "I did too!"

Charles Colson said, *"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."*

He was resurrected and appeared!

This is the gospel in a nutshell.

1. He died for our sins and was buried.
2. He was resurrected from the grave and appeared.
3. This message is the power of God for salvation!

Romans 1:16 *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.*

This message is

1. **Good News**

The word Gospel in Greek literally means “good news.”

1. Jesus didn't make this word gospel up.
2. When Jesus used it and Paul used it, they borrowed it from their culture
3. If the first century, if an emperor won a great battle which secured peace and established his rule, he would send heralds with a “gospel” to declare victory, peace, and authority.
Announcing Victory!

The gospel is the announcement that Jesus has overcome sin and death.

1. This is not an invitation for you to come and help fight; but news about a battle that has already been won.
2. It was not an invitation to fight in the battle.
3. It was a declaration that the battle is won and you can dwell securely in the land!
 - a. What do I need to do to be saved? You are too late. It is finished!
 - b. It has already been done. This is good news!

2. **Trustworthy**

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.

This word ashamed literally means disgraced...shamed.

1. Publicly embarrassed because of misplaced support or confidence.
 - a. Oh, I can do that no prob...then you bust it.
 - b. Shamed
2. It could also imply the embarrassment that comes when you believe a lie.
 - a. If you just like and share this post of the blond haired blue eyed Jesus on FB your bills will be paid off by tomorrow and your name will be written in the Lamb's book of life
 - b. Shamed...or at least you should be.
3. Paul said, that is not me!
4. 2 Timothy 1:12 *For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*
 - a. This message is trustworthy!
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:15 *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

3. **Powerful**

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.

It is the power of God for salvation

1. This word power refers to physical power, force, might, effectiveness
2. Often it is translated miracles, or miraculous power.
3. The gospel is the miracle of God for salvation!
 - a. To take us from death to life
 - b. To turn us from darkness to light
 - c. From the power of Satan to the power of God
4. This is a miracle!

4. For you

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.

It is to ALL who believe.

Consider which of those 6 groups you identified with at the beginning of the message. Is there any reason that you should walk out of this service today...

1. A disbeliever? This is a trustworthy message.
2. Disinterested or Distracted? This is the best news ever
4. Deceived? Explained it as best I could
5. Disillusioned? This is a powerful gospel...if it hasn't worked transformation it isn't real!
6. Doubter? It is for all who believe!

Is there any reason that you should walk out of this service today without believing and embracing this gospel message?

1. Repent...Turn
2. Faith...Trust
3. Respond...Do works proving