

Things of First Importance

1 Cor. 15:1-8

When we talk about the Gospel, there are two things we need to avoid.

- The first is to make other things which are not the Gospel, the Gospel.
- The second thing we must avoid is assuming the Gospel.

I. I Make Known to You the Gospel Which I Preached to You (1-2)

- A. I make known to you
- B. The Gospel which I preached to you
- C. Which you received, in which you stand
 - 1. To receive the Gospel is to welcome it
Col. 2:6; 1 Thess. 2:13
 - 2. In which you stand
Rom 5:2; 2 Cor. 1:24
- D. Through which you are saved
 - 1. The Gospel is the message through which God saves (rescues/delivers) people from His wrath. (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9)
 - 2. If you hold fast, unless you believed in vain
Continuance in the faith is non-negotiable
Rom. 11:22; Col. 1:23

The biggest helps for us to hold fast

- 1) Hear the Gospel preached and apply it to yourself repeatedly (stand in it!)
- 2) Be in regular fellowship with other believers
- 3) Bank your hope on the promises and give heed to the threats
- 4) Make it a matter of conscience to walk with God personally
- 5) Make use of the Lord's Supper as a means of grace (see #1)
- 6) Be on guard against things which weaken our faith – i.e., sin

II. Matters of First Importance (3-11)

- A. I delivered to you among first things
- B. Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures
- C. That He was buried and raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures
 - 1) Note: burial is significant for two reasons –
 - 2) Raised according to the Scriptures
Psa. 16:9-11; Psa. 22:22-31; Isa. 53:10-11

- 3) On the third day according to the Scriptures
- D. And that he appeared (the appearance verify/demonstrate His resurrection)
 1. To Cephas – to Peter (Peter is singled out in the appearances)
 2. Then to the 12
 3. Then He appeared to more than 500 brethren at once
Most of whom remain, but some have fallen asleep
Matt. 28:16-20
 4. Then He appeared to James
An unbeliever during Jesus' ministry (John 7:2-4)
 5. And to all the apostles
Could be a reference to another appearance to the 12 (inc Thomas?)
The circle wider than the 12 ... not certain here.
 6. Paul – the one untimely born

Conclusion

- The Gospel gloriously centers on the events of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- The resurrection is historical
- The Gospel is deeply personal – Christ did this for me, I trust in Christ
 - I receive the message; I receive Christ Himself in the message.
 - I persevere in the Gospel with authentic faith.