

First of All

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- I. While it will always be necessary to deal with issues that arise in the church we must never stray far from the basic reason for the existence of the church and the means of our salvation.
 - A. Paul takes them back in the last chapter here to the beginning and to the basics of what they are supposed to be about.
 - B. The basic Gospel message of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord.
 - C. How foolish the confusion that had been introduced into this church must have looked when brought under the light of the Gospel message itself.
 - D. Any doctrine or practice that is introduced into the church can be judged by how it stands up when placed next to and in the light of the basic Gospel message.
- II. He reminds them that they once believed the Gospel and had made it the center and purpose of their lives.

...which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

- A. Also, that there would be no church there and they would have no fellowship of believers there without the foundation of the Gospel.
 - B. Wherein ye stand – they could not continue to have a church with the kinds of things they were drifting into and allowing in their meetings and fellowship.
- III. This is where their hope of eternal life is founded – not in tongues, or spiritual gifts, or other fascinating experiences. (v. 2)

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

- A. Then he gently puts forth a doubt about them and where they now stand with God.
- B. He presses the fact that if you are saved you will continue to believe the Gospel.
- C. Saving faith is not just a one-time act of intellectually accepting some facts about Jesus.
 1. Neither is it a one-time emotional experience in which you make a commitment or a decision.
- D. The only saving faith is faith that continues to believe.
- E. The only saving faith is the kind that keeps you close to the Savior and what He has done for you to redeem your life from destruction. (Ps. 103:4)
- F. This kind of faith will not allow you to continue long in any other distraction without returning to the basic reason for your present existence.
- G. This kind of faith will cause you to joy in Jesus and what He has done for you more than in anything else that might come along.

IV. Paul reminded them that he was saved by the same Gospel they were.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, (v. 3)

- A. Someone had delivered the same message to him before he had brought it to them.
- B. However, he was not going down the roads they were going down – in doctrine and practice in the church, as well as the loose morals they were embracing.
- C. This put them at contrast with the Apostle – one of them must not be on the right track.

V. The basic parts of the Gospel are three: the death, the burial, and the resurrection.

...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- A. Paul said twice here, “according to the Scriptures.”
 - 1. He was emphasizing the fact that what he was saying was with the authority of the Word of God, not just his own opinions.
 - 2. He was also emphasizing that the Gospel was not something new, but the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan, which had been known to man since the beginning.
- B. The three parts of the Gospel are the model for the life of every Christian, also.
 - 1. There must be a death, a burial, and a resurrection in each life where there is a work of salvation.
- C. This would take care of all the problems in this church.
 - 1. Their carnal ways.
 - 2. Their immoral way.
 - 3. Their crazy, off-the-wall doctrines and practices.

VI. The Gospel may sound simple but its depths are still to be discovered by men.

- A. The more you look at it and study it the deeper it gets.
- B. It is clearly something from the same mind that designed this universe because everything else He made is the same.
- C. So we have no need to go after strange doctrines and mystical experiences because there is no greater spiritual thrill for your soul than to simply learn more about Jesus and what He has done.