

GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT

“If Christ Has Not Been Raised”

Scripture Reading: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-9.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 10.** This is week #6 in our sermon series “*GETTING THE GOSPEL RIGHT.*” And I have titled today’s message “*If Christ Has Not Been Raised*” (15:14, 17).
-) If it is the gospel that saves (ROM 1:16), if it is the gospel that brings about salvation, then we must make sure we get the gospel right. As your pastor and teacher, I want to make sure that I have given you everything you need to know about the gospel. I am responsible to you. I am not responsible for you.
-) **SLIDE 11.** Let’s review our 5 non-negotiable gospel truths we have learned so far. And this is Biblical Christianity 101. 1) The sinfulness of mankind. 2) The helplessness of mankind. 3) The divinity of Jesus. 4) The exclusiveness of Jesus. 5) The atonement paid on the cross.
-) The gospel is about who Jesus is, what Jesus said, and what Jesus accomplished and how He is the only solution to our sin problem. The two most significant events ever in human history concern what Jesus accomplished.
-) The first is what we discussed last week—the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. And the second is what we will talk about today—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. What did the resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplish that is critical to the gospel and our salvation?
-) **SLIDE 12.** ROMANS 10:9,10. Again, in a negative way.

-) **SLIDE 13.** The gospel always proclaims that belief in the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ is a requirement for salvation.
-) We must receive, by faith, that God did resurrect His Son, Jesus Christ, from the grave. This is another truth necessary for salvation. And if this is all we learn today, then we have learned another gospel truth. But let's dig a little deeper.
-) Let's move to the gospel of MARK for another truth we will learn today. I am going to put up here on the screen three Scripture readings all from the gospel of MARK. Let's look for the common thread among these three verses. Bold.
-) **SLIDE 14.** MARK 8:31.
-) **SLIDE 15.** MARK 9:30-31.
-) **SLIDE 16.** MARK 10:32b-34.
-) In each of these three passages of Scripture, Jesus prophesies that He will be killed and three days later rise from the dead. Why are these verses important? Answer.
-) Two weeks ago, we concluded that Jesus is God incarnate. And we know that God is perfect so therefore Jesus is perfect so therefore Jesus can never tell a lie. If Jesus does not rise from the dead as He said He would, that makes Jesus a liar.
-) And if Jesus is a liar, He cannot be God. And if Jesus is not God, then 1) He does not qualify for the perfect sacrifice of atonement required by God and 2) He cannot be the only way unto salvation. There must be other ways. Oprah is right.
-) **SLIDE 17.** JOHN 10:17-18.
-) **SLIDE 18.** The resurrection of Jesus Christ **PROVES** Jesus is God. How does the resurrection prove that? Answer. Only God has the power to raise someone from the dead. And since Jesus is God, and He and the Father are one, Jesus has the authority to lay down His life and to take it back up again.

-) I have yet to see a human being who had the authority to take up his own life once he was dead. Have you? But Jesus did. Proof, again, that Jesus is God.
-) **SLIDE 19.** Let's move on to a third point. ROMANS 5:12.
-) Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited sin and we have all inherited (spiritual) death. The wages of sin is what? Death. (ROM 6:23). What does the gospel proclaim about our spiritual death?
-) **SLIDE 20.** JOHN 11:25-26.
-) **SLIDE 21.** JOHN 11:25-25 modified. Forty-five times in the gospel of JOHN, the word "*life*" is used to reference an eternal condition—eternal life which is in direct opposition to eternal death. Let's look at eternal death.
-) **SLIDE 22.** EPHESIANS 2:1-2. As unbelievers, it's not that our spiritual condition is weak and just needs strength. It's not that our spiritual condition is hurt and just needs a band aid. It's not that our spiritual condition is a little out-of-touch and just needs a good psychotherapist. Folks, our Spiritual condition is DEAD and we need a resurrection. We need a Savior.
-) **SLIDE 23.** In JOHN 11:25, we learn from Jesus that resurrection brings life. Something that is dead needs brought back to life. Jesus is the resurrection and the life ("*I am the way, the truth, and the life*"). His resurrection brings back life to all who believe.
-) **SLIDE 24.** The entire 15th chapter of 1COR is dedicated to explaining more about resurrection. In verses 53-57 the apostle Paul explains this point even further. 1 COR 15:53-57.
-) The most horrible thing an unbeliever will face will be death. Why? Because the unbeliever is still in his/her sins and the wages of sin is death. So, when the unbeliever dies, for them there is no turning back, there are no do-overs, and there is no such place as purgatory.

-) They will feel the sting of their transgressions and their physical death will usher them into a spiritual death for eternity.
-) **SLIDE 25.** 1COR 15:53-57. But the believer has what? Victory! Our deadness has been resurrected! The believer has been brought back to life! To eternal life.
-) **SLIDE 26.** Jesus atoned for our **SIN** debt on the cross and He defeated our **DEATH** sentence by His resurrection from the grave. How?
-) **SLIDE 27.** Jesus is a divine **PERSON**. Death could not hold Him because He is the sinless lamb of God.
-) Jesus has divine **POWER**. Death could not hold Him because He is the resurrection and the life.
-) Jesus gives a divine **PROMISE**. Death could not hold Him because Jesus said, "*Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.*"
-) And Jesus has a divine **PURPOSE**. Death could not hold Him because God says in ISAIAH 46:11, "*What I have planned, that I will do.*" And no one or nothing can thwart the plan of God.
-) **SLIDE 28.** ACTS 2:22-24. Impossible to be held in what power? The power of death!
-) Folks, the grave can't hold our Savior. The tomb is empty! Let's conclude by looking at our Scripture text for today.
-) **SLIDE 29.** Some at this church in Corinth were believing and teaching false doctrine about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's not good. It's actually damning. Paul stresses the importance of the resurrection. 1 COR 15:16-17.
-) **SLIDE 30.** If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then we are still in our **SINS**. For salvation to happen, there must be a resurrection of the Christ, the promised Messiah. Just as sin must be defeated, death must be defeated also. Jesus defeated and conquered both sin and death.

-) If there is no resurrection, then why are we here today? If there is no resurrection, then we are all here just wasting our time trying to learn how to be good people through our own strength. And being “good” never fixed anyone’s sin problem and never acquitted anyone’s death sentence.
-) **SLIDE 31.** I heard a preacher say, “*If you are born once, you will die twice. If you are born twice, you will die once.*” What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? You must be what? Born again.
-) **SLIDE 32.** We have now covered six gospel truths that we must know and believe and receive by faith. Read.
-) Now we know the gospel. This is the gospel. Next week we will cover the human response to these gospel truths—a response that is also critical to our salvation.
-) The gospel. The power unto salvation to all who believe. Let’s get the gospel right.

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