

The Gospel

Focus Passage: 1 Corinthians 15

As a believer, and as an Ekklesia, do we stand on the gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

THE GOSPEL is the Resurrection of Jesus (vv. 3-11)

Heresy is...

There are only 2 choices in life: _____ or a **futility**. (vv. 12-19)

Choice #1: The _____ of the Self-Directed Me (vv. 20-34)

- _____ is the inevitable consequence of my life. (vv. 20-25)
- _____ is the inescapable enemy. (vv. 26-32)
- The erosion of the Ekklesia is not _____ or proclaiming the gospel. (vv. 33-34)

Choice #2: The _____ in Jesus (vv. 35-58)

- The resurrection of Jesus brings complete _____. (vv. 35-49)
- The resurrection of Jesus brings complete _____. (vv. 50-54)
- The resurrection of Jesus brings complete _____. (vv. 54b-57)

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

*⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.***



Digging Deeper

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

As a group, answer this question:

What does it mean for us as a Ekklesia (church) to live and die on the gospel? *(10 minutes)*

Introspection and examination *(10 minutes)*

As a church...

- Where do we concentrate our energy?
- Where do we concentrate our money?
- Where do we concentrate our programming?
- Where do we concentrate our individual members' time and talents?

Group questions *(10 minutes)*

- Do you really believe that the gospel is the only answer in this world? If so, why?
- What would change about the world around us if we really did live out and tell the gospel?

Group activity and the gospel *(30 minutes)*

Step 1: Collaborating as a group, write the gospel message in your own words. See if you can write it in just a few sentences. Don't forget, this is *the gospel*—God's story. (Writing your story will come soon!)

Step 2: Once it is finished, take the time for each person in the group to read it out loud to the rest of the group (yes, the same story you just wrote out)! Just read it word for word.

Step 3: When everyone has read, then repeat the exercise, but this time telling the story in your own words (NOT reading from the document). Let each person tell the story to the group, just as if you were telling someone this gospel for the first time.

Take this home:

- Begin writing out the names of people in your life who do not really understand and know the gospel.
- Figure out a way to make this list of people a part of your regular prayer life.
- Slowly read **1 Corinthians 15** this week.
- Read **2 Corinthians 3-4** for next week.