



CONFIDENT IN THE GOSPEL

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

1

'THE GOSPEL' IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

- Paul reminds the believers of the key points v 1a
 - Paul stresses that this is the basis of their faith v 1b
 - Paul highlights that keeping holding the gospel is the basis of their salvation v 2; cf. Romans 1:16-17
- 'the gospel' is something Paul 'received' and 'passed on' v 3
 - the gospel is not Paul's invention
 - the gospel is what all the apostles proclaimed v 11

2

'THE GOSPEL' IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

- Verses 3-5 look like a 'mini-creed' shared by early believers
 - repeated use of 'that' (Greek *hoti*), used for quotations
 - similarity to other places, e.g.
 - 'For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.' 1 Peter 3:18
- probably 'received' by Paul on first visit to Jerusalem Galatians 1:18-20
 - 3 years after Paul's Damascus road experience
 - drawing on an already-formed traditional statement

3

FOUR KEY ELEMENTS OF 'THE GOSPEL'

- the identity of Jesus as the Messiah ('Christ') v 3
- Jesus' death 'for our sins' v 3
- Jesus' saving actions fulfil Scripture vv 3, 4
- Jesus' burial and resurrection on the third day v 4
- 'the gospel' is
 - a story
 - of who Jesus is
 - and what he has done for us
- it is by entering this story for ourselves that we receive forgiveness and enter a right relationship with God

4

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS AS 'THE MESSIAH'

- 'Messiah' = anointed one (anointed by God)
 - used for kings, priests and prophets in OT
 - Psalm 2:2 important for early Christian understanding of Jesus as **God's anointed king**

The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the LORD and against his anointed

- Jesus as Messiah/king in the Gospels
 - Mark 1:1; 8:19
 - Matthew: Jesus as 'son of David' 1:1; 15:52; 20:30-31; 21:9
 - John: Jesus as 'king of Israel' 1:49; 12:13

5

JESUS' DEATH 'FOR OUR SINS'

- unusual to have 'sins' plural—Paul usually speaks of 'sin'
 - our fundamental problem as people is being cut off from God as a result of sin
 - sin = living in God's world with myself at the centre
 - sins are the symptoms of the disease of sin
 - we cannot deal with this ourselves by 'self improvement': we need outside help!—Jesus died 'for our sins'
- echoes Isaiah 53
 - 'suffering servant' dies on behalf of others (vicariously) and thus deals with their sin vv 4-5, 11-12

6

“

- 4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
- 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
- 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

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9

“ 11 After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:11-12

10

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Isaiah 53:11-12

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JESUS' DEATH 'FOR OUR SINS'

- Isaiah 53 modifies a standard assumption that a person's own sins lead to their own death
 - 'he' dies alone for 'our' sins v 5
 - King Zimri 'he died because the sins he committed, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD and following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.' 1 Kings 16:18-19
 - Zelophehad 'Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons' Numbers 27:3
 - 'Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin.' Deuteronomy 24:16

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JESUS' DEATH 'FOR OUR SINS'

- In the Gospels
 - 'The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many' Mark 10:45 = Matthew 20:28
 - 'This is my body given for you... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you' Luke 22:19-20
 - 'Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' John 1:29
 - "...it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed". He [Caiaphas] did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God.' John 11:50-52

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JESUS' DEATH 'FOR OUR SINS'

- 'The Messiah died for our sins'
 - he dies because of the sins of others (contrast Zimri, etc.)
 - 'the wages of sin is death' Romans 3:23
 - because of that, the 'others' are free from the consequences of their sins
 - since the Messiah died for our sins, we do not have to die for them

There's a way back to God from the dark paths of sin
There's a door that is open and you may go in
At Calvary's cross is where you begin
When you come as a sinner to Jesus.
(E. H. Swinstead)

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JESUS' SAVING ACTIONS FULFIL SCRIPTURE

- not just particular verses, but the whole long scriptural narrative points to this
- '...beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.' Luke 24:27 (see also vv 44-47)
- 'it is necessary'—often 'must' in English versions
 - 'Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.' Mark 8:31
- Peter and John did not understand the Scripture that it was necessary for Jesus to rise again John 20:9

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JESUS' BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

- Saw this in Paul yesterday
- Mark: predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection
8:31; 9:31; 10:33
- Matthew and Luke
 - echo predictions from Mark
 - add appearance stories in Matthew 28; Luke 24
- John
 - announces resurrection in advance 2:19-22
 - narrates appearances John 20-21

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JESUS' BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

- All four have Jesus raised 'on the third day', i.e. Sunday
 - Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:64; 28:1
 - Mark 16:2
 - Luke 9:22; 18:33; 24:1, 7, 21, 46
 - John 20:1
- Luke and John are clear on the bodily nature of Jesus' resurrection
 - Jesus can hold bread Luke 24:30; John 21:13
 - Jesus can eat Luke 24:41-43; John 21:12
 - Jesus can be touched John 20:27

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