

1 CORINTHIANS 15 vs 1

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¹ Moreover, brothers and sisters, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you which you also received / the apostle Paul is speaking, which you reached and took to yourself,

and wherein you stand;

² By which you also are saved, if you hold tightly what I preached to you / it is the same word Paul writes to the Thessalonians... about that law of God that limits and restrains the man of sin, the antichrist from coming to power. Paul is stressing the importance of holding onto the words he spoke to them. Paul said, we labor together with God... in His work, in the church He is building. God is the Master architect; and according to God's grace, Paul laid the foundation for others to build on; and if there is a question about what that all looks like, Paul says, there is no other foundation than the one in place... which is Jesus Christ,



unless you vainly believed / Dr. Leon Morris says, this refers to the possibility of belief on an inadequate basis. Paul warns, their grip, their comprehension of the gospel might be such... that they are not really trusting Christ, their belief being groundless and empty.

³ For I delivered to you first of all what I also received / Paul delivered to them what he reached and took himself directly from the Lord. This Good News was no afterthought. Paul walks us onlookers step by step through early questions new believers had. And notice where Paul starts this Good News:

how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures / apothnesko... used 5 times in this chapter. The early church had no doubt about the reality of the death of Christ. In this chapter alone, Paul references: death, 5; dead, 14; die, 5; buried, 1; fallen asleep and slept, 4; a total of 29 times. Paul wants us to know... when he says, **dead**... he means, **dead**!

Paul starts on the ground that is level at the foot of the cross; where all of us equally stand; Paul wants us to know, the prophets foretold the Suffering Servant who would come. **Isaiah 53**; **Psalms 22**; **Daniel 9**... and so many other chapters spell it out plainly... for any who will take the time to look... and consider;

⁴ and that He was buried / thapto; to inter at a funeral. The fact of the burial is evidence Jesus died -- mentioned in all four Gospels. Morris writes, the burial of the dead body is the prelude to the empty tomb,

and that He rose again / egeiro... used 19 times in this chapter. Clearly, Paul wants us to know... when he said, **dead**, he means **dead**; so when he says, **rose again** he means, **to arise**, to stand up alive!

the third day according to the scriptures / Paul's next point, early that Saturday evening... after the sun went down... and the glorious moonlight of the new day was brightly shining -- the moonlight. And all this happened just as Jesus told them:

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Jesus spoke to a generation of folks running around... looking for God to work special effects -- like now days. Jesus said, They seek a sign, and there shall be no sign given, but the sign of Jonah the prophet. the book of Jonah we read, the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, the prophet was in the belly of that fish **3 days and 3 nights**.

⁵ **And that He was seen by Cephas** / Kephas = **rock**. Peter declared, You are the Christ. Then Jesus said, you are Petros... and upon this petra -- upon Peter's faith; Jesus says, **I will build MY church**. Now, others might be building their own church, but we are learning about the church Jesus Christ is building,

Then of the twelve / with little debate, this is the 11 of the 12... without the traitor:

⁶ After this,

He was seen by more than five hundred 500 brothers and sisters at the same time / remember: Jesus sent His disciples from hostile Jerusalem... to friendlier surroundings in the Galilee of the Nations, where most of the women who followed Jesus were from. This is where Jesus fed the 5,000, hungry to hear His teaching. This detail the church often forgets. If any in the early church had any questions, they could go and speak to **more than 500** men and women, eye-witnesses of Jesus;

of whom the greater part remains to the present, but some are fallen asleep / the word is: *koimao*... used 18 times in the New Testament... literally, to sleep, to slumber; or metaphorically: to be dead.

⁷ After that, **He was seen of James** / it is interesting: during Jesus' earthly ministry, for whatever reason, James, the oldest step-brother never followed Jesus. A simple reading through the letter of James, reveals his strong Jewish roots; and only a passing reference to the Lord Jesus... without any direct quotes from any of the many parables or lessons Jesus taught;

then of all the apostles / all the sent ones; now coming to the end of this lists of eye-witnesses, we learn of others Jesus encountered after the resurrection. These are the 70 nameless individuals... that Dr. Luke told us about... in his chapter 11. Of course, Jesus would want to meet the 70 apostles He had sent... who brought Him so much joy. Remember, when they returned... Jesus went jubilant as He gave glory to God; and then announced: He saw Satan tumble like a thunderbolt from heaven!

⁸ And last of all

He was seen of me also,

as of one born out of due time / **ektromati**; meaning: untimely birth; a **miscarriage**; and was it a term of abuse that Paul was using? In 2 Corinthians 10:10 we learn his critics said, **the letters of Paul were weighty, but his bodily presence was weak** -- they let him know his speech was contemptible. or: to his religious critics, according to Dr Barclay, they considered Paul, an abortion:

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Paul was a late-comer. Notice, Paul does not have time to tell us about Lazarus, or Martha and Mary of the Bethany household; or Zacchaeus that very short, very wealthy guy; or the man born blind; or the deaf and stammering man; or the woman caught having illicit sex; or the lame man wasting away in boredom for 38 years; or any of the healed lepers; or the Centurion; or Malchus the servant of the high priest, whose ear Peter had just severed; or Simon the Cyrenian who carried Jesus cross and his sons Alexander and Rufus; or even Mary Magdalene... and all the women who stood at the cross ministering, and many others.

Much of the church still considers Paul to be an abortion; even as his writings and the life he gave to tell us of our great Savior are left ignored. Years ago, A.W. Tozer wrote, Instant Christianity is 20th century orthodoxy. And asks: I wonder whether the man who wrote Philippians 3:7-16 would recognize it as the faith for which he finally died. I am afraid he would not.

⁹ **For I am the least of the apostles,** that I am not adequate to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ **But by the grace of God I am what I am:** and that His grace to me was **not** in vain / there is a saying in the church in India: whom God guides; God provides! If God calls you that call is always wrapped in the gift of His grace; and it is as if Paul stops himself, arresting his unfinished thought, simply concluding:

rather more abundantly than they all, I labored;

yet **not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

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