

1 Corinthians 15:3-11 The Gospel Revolution

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1 Corinthians 15:3-11 ESV)

The Gospel changes everything. God's desire is to revolutionize the way you think and live by the power of this message.

"We are saved by believing the gospel, and then we are transformed in every part of our minds, hearts, and lives by believing the gospel more and more deeply as life goes on." (Keller)

I. The Gospel is Centered on the Person of Christ

"there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 ESV)

"...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come." (Ephesians 1:21 ESV)

"God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11 ESV)

II. The Gospel Entails the Work of Christ

"God is the source of all life, so if his image-bearers spit in his face and insist on going their own way and becoming their own gods, they cut themselves off from their Maker, from the One who gives life. What is there, then, but death? Moreover, when we sin in any way, God himself is invariably the most offended party (Ps 51). The God the Bible portrays as resolved to intervene and save is also the God portrayed as full of wrath because of our sustained idolatry." (D.A. Carson)

“What makes sin sin, what makes it so vile...is that is against God. In all our sinning, God is invariably the most offended party. That is why we must have his forgiveness, or we have nothing...As much as he intervenes to save us, he stands over us as Judge, an offended Judge with fearsome jealousy.” (Carson)

“The Lord Jesus [will be] revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might...” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ESV)

“We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20-21 ESV)

III. The Gospel is Biblical

“...beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27).

*Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*
(Isaiah 53:4-6 ESV)

IV. The Gospel is Historical

V. The Gospel is Transformative

God takes the worst things about us and in us, and uses it as an opportunity to show his goodness.

A. You won't be thankful for what you've done, but be humbled by what you've received.

Instead of allowing Satan to use it to accuse you of your unworthiness of God, allow God to remind you of the beauty of grace toward you.

“The power of the Gospel comes in two movements. It first says, ‘I am more sinful and flawed than I ever dared to believe,’ but then quickly follows with, ‘I am more accepted and loved than I ever dared hope.’” - Tim Keller

B. Grace is not just a change of God’s attitude toward you, it’s a powerful force for change he provides for you.