

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
The Gospel Message— 1 Cor. 15:1-11
January 5, 2024

- I. Responsibility of believers toward the Gospel (1-3a)
- Preach/declare it
 - to *announce good* news (“evangelize”) especially the gospel :- declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel). Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.
 - Receive it
 - to *receive near*, i.e. *associate with* oneself (in any familiar or intimate act or relation); by analogy to *assume* an office; figurative to *learn* :- receive, take (unto, with). Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.
 - Stand
 - to *stand* (transitive or intransitive), used in various applications (literal or figurative) :- abide, appoint, bring, continue, covenant, establish, hold up, lay, present, set (up), stanch, stand (by, forth, still, up). Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.
 - hold fast to it
 - **κατέχω** hold fast, keep; take, possess; hold back, restrain, suppress; head for ([Acts 27:40](#)). Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament.
Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*
 - Saved by it
 - **σώζω** save (of Christian salvation); save, rescue, deliver; keep safe, preserve; cure, make well. Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament.
 - Believed in vain
 - Believed
 - *pisteuō* means “to trust” (also “to obey”), “to believe” (words), and in the passive “to enjoy confidence” (cf. the later sense “to confide in”). Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: Abridged in One Volume.
 - In vain (adverb)—without consideration, without counting the cost, to believe casually so as to be unimportant (seen as optional equipment)
 - *Unless you believed without proper consideration* (TLV)
 - *Unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in first place* (NLT)
 - Paul passes long what he first received—from whom did he receive it
 - From Jesus while in Arabia
Galatians 1:17-18 (NKJV) *nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter; and remained with him fifteen days.*
 - After 14 years went to Jerusalem to make sure it was same as the 12 apostles
Galatians 2:1-2 (NKJV) *Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me. ² And I went up by revelation, and*

communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain.

II. Reality of the Gospel (3b-4) [compare to Apostles creed]

- Christ died for our sins according to Scripture (Isa. 53: 4-6, 8; Matt. 26:28, 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 2:2)
Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV) *Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ 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.*
- He was buried (Isa. 53:9; Matt 27:57-60; Acts 13:29; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12)
Isaiah 53:9 (NKJV) *And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*
- He rose from the dead according to Scripture (Hos. 6:2; Jonah 1:17; Psa. 16:8-11)
Hosea 6:2 (NKJV) *After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*

III. Respondents of the Gospel initially (5-11)

- Jesus did not preach in some out of the way corner in Israel so it could be hidden—He did everything openly (John 18:19-21; Acts 26:26)
Acts 26:26 (NKJV) *For the king [Agrippa], before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.*
- The fact that there were so many witnesses and so many books written about it proves it is historically accurate

IV. Realization of impact for today

- This gospel is of primary importance—it is a foundational doctrine (1 Corinthians texts)
- If we have not received (embraced, seized, taken hold of) the gospel and kept it—all of the other things in life have no value
- The gospel is like a foot race
 - o There is a start line (justification/salvation), running the race inside the boundaries of the race (sanctification/narrow path) and a finish line (glorification/ meeting Jesus).
 - o We not only must start in order to be saved—we also must finish
Matthew 10:22 (NKJV) *And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*
- The gospel produces the life of God in us
 - o Let's be those who live the life of God, run well and finish strong in 25!