

Postcards from Corinth - Part 9
What actually is the Gospel?
1 Cor. 15:1-11
June 15, 2025

I. The TRUTH that will TRANSFORM them. (v.1-2)

- A. They NEED to be REMINDED. (v.1; 1 Cor. 1-16)**
- B. The gospel has a POINT and a PROCESS. (v.1-2)**
- C. It must be KNOWN and LIVED. (v.1-2)**

We've talked about the gospel all the way through this series of post cards from Corinth. But what exactly is the gospel? What does that word - the good news - actually mean? Paul starts the closing part of this letter to the church at Corinth reminding them about what the Gospel is.

1. Kid's Question: Why to you think Jesus and what He did is important?
2. How have you viewed the gospel in your own life? Is it more about "point" or "process"?

II. The CONTENT of the GOSPEL itself. (v.3-8)

- A. Not WHAT we might EXPECT. (v.3-5)**
 - 1. Jesus DIED for our SINS. (v.3)**
 - 2. JESUS was really DEAD. (v.4)**
 - 3. But DEATH was only TEMPORARY. (v.4)**
 - 4. Jesus APPEARED to us ALIVE. (v.5-8)**
- B. All ACCORDING to the SCRIPTURE. (v.3,4; Lk. 24:27)**

As you read what Paul has written one thing stands out. It's not exactly the way we usually hear the gospel recounted today. Our current discussions often are structured by the 4 spiritual laws or the gap that sin brings between us and God and the cross as a bridge to get across that chasm. But Paul doesn't really explain it the same way as we often do today.

3. How does Paul's explanation of the gospel feel different than what we normally think of? What is missing? Why do you think his explanation is different?
4. How does this gospel that Paul is sharing impact you?
5. Do you think of the gospel on a regular basis in your day to day life? Why or why not?

III. Gospel IMPACT on Paul, CORINTH, and on US. (v.9-11)

- A. It's a GOSPEL in the FLESH. (v.1-8; Jn 6:53-56)**

- B. It TRANSFORMS who we ARE. (v.8-10; Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 5:17)**
- C. It brings LIFE to all our DEADNESS. (v.9-10,12-58; Eph. 2:1-7)**
- D. It EMPOWERS our day to day LIVES. (v.1,58; Rom. 7:24,25)**

Paul knew that the gospel changes everything. That's why he kept it central in his own life and teaching. That's why he's closing this letter by "reminding" the Corinthians about the gospel and its impact. That's why today we need to let the gospel sink into our own lives at the deepest possible level.

- 6. What does it mean that the gospel is a gospel in the flesh? Where are the places that it seems more like a spiritual idea? Why do we often think of it that way?
- 7. How have you seen deadness come to life through the gospel in your own life? Where would you like to see that happen?
- 8. How can you know if you really believe that the gospel can transform your whole life? What would it change about your life if that conviction became a central truth in your life?