Growing in Grace

Growing in Community

Life Lessons on Maturity with the Corinthians

***The Gospel***

***What is it, and why is it Good News?***

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The gospel is

the historically verifiable message

that Jesus Christ died for sinners, was buried, and rose again on the third day,

as the fullest expression of God’s righteousness as revealed in the Scriptures.

❖ The gospel is of utmost significance. “. . . of first importance.”

The gospel is THE message of the early church, proclaimed by the apostles and acknowledged by all Christians. vv. 1, 2, 11

❖ The gospel is purposeful. “. . . for our sins“

The gospel is the only message from God about how human beings can be made right with Him, namely, that Christ died in the place of sinners, appeasing God’s righteous wrath, in order to save them. vv. 2, 3

❖ The gospel is God’s plan. “. . . according to the Scriptures.”

The gospel is the apex of God’s revealed plan to glorify Himself, the highest expression of His attributes harmonized in His righteousness. vv. 3, 4

❖ The gospel is historical and historically verifiable. “. . . He appeared”

The gospel is historically verifiable because of its many witnesses. The apostles were witnesses to the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and their testimony (which they gave at the cost of their lives) was supported by hundreds of other eye witnesses. vv. 5-11

The gospel is good news because. . .

It shows that salvation is provided freely to all who truly embrace (believe/trust) it.

It strikes at and solves the very root issue of our problems: sin.

It preserves the integrity of God by both showing mercy and atoning for evil.

It brings the greatest possible glory to our Creator / Redeemer God.

The gospel would NOT be good news. . .

If it meant that Christ’s death merely makes salvation possible.

If I still have to earn salvation by good works.

If it did not help me understand that my sin is an enemy that must be conquered.

If it left me powerless against sin.

**Growth Principle #20 The spiritually mature Christian confesses that Jesus’ work for sinners, the gospel as revealed in Scripture, is the foundation of Christian faith.**

**What does it mean to “believe the gospel” unto salvation?**

**1. To believe is to trust my eternal future to God as revealed in His word, regardless of the approval or disapproval of others or their traditions. John 5:39-44; 12:42-50**

**2. To believe is to see myself as a sinner (not righteous) and to acknowledge that Christ’s death was for such sinners. John 1:29; 3:19-21; 4:16-19; 8:1-11, 21-24, 31-36**

**3. To believe is to receive Christ, looking to Him alone to save me. John 1:11, 12; 3:14, 15**

**4. To believe is to be satisfied in and with and by Christ. John 4:13, 14; 6:35, 36**

**5. To believe is to trust God’s promise to save anyone who comes to Him through Christ. John 1:12, 13; 3:16-18; 6:37; 14:6; 20:30, 31**

**6. To believe is to begin to love, follow, and obey Christ and His Word, although in this life we will do so imperfectly. John 8:42; 10:27, 28; 14:1, 15, 24; 15:10; 17:7, 8, 17**