

Reset – Solid Ground for Uncertain Times

January 2nd, 2022

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Foundation 1: The Gospel

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

1. The Gospel is Primary

“For I delivered to you as of first importance” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

2. The Gospel is Powerful

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved....” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)

3. The Gospel brings Purpose

“...Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. Paul says that he delivers the gospel as of "*first importance*" (1 Corinthians 15:3). What is the gospel? How does Paul define it? Jeff compared the gospel to the sun, and its role in our solar system. How does this analogy help us understand the gospel's place in our lives? Why must the gospel be primary in the life of the church? How does the truth of the gospel help us understand each aspect of the Christian life more clearly (e.g. worship, community, the purpose of Scripture, doing justice and mercy)?
3. How does Paul describe the power of the gospel in verses 1-2? How does the gospel impact our past, present, and future? How is the gospel more than simply an "*entry requirement*" for the Christian life? How does Paul live the Christian life (see also Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 2:19-21)? What implications does this have for how we grow as Christians (see Colossians 2:6-7)?
4. Why is it significant that the gospel message is "*according to the Scriptures*" (vv. 3-4)? How does the gospel provide us with a transcendent story to live in? How does the gospel provide a deeper framework for understanding the purpose of our lives?

Application

5. When we understand that lasting change comes through deepening our belief in the gospel, how does this change the way we read the Bible (see 2 Timothy 3:15)?
6. Jeff gave several examples of how deepening our faith in the gospel produces change. Which of these stood out to you? In what area do you want to grow in 2022? How could deepening your faith in the gospel bring change in this area?
7. The gospel provides us with a larger narrative to make sense out of our lives. How do people today find meaning and purpose for their lives? How does the gospel provide us with a bigger and better story?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?