

The Value of the Gospel

1 Cor. 15:1-11

Introduction:

- A. Paul gives us some insight into the value of the gospel in this chapter.
 - 1. He briefly states the fundamental facts of the gospel (vv. 1-4)
 - 2. He refers to the witnesses to these facts (vv. 5-8).
 - 3. He expands on these facts, especially the resurrection, in the rest of the chapter.
- B. Paul's expansion of the facts of the gospel help us to understand its value to us.
 - 1. Why are you here listening to me? You believe these facts.
 - 2. Why am I preaching and you supporting me? We believe these facts.
 - 3. Why are all the works of Christianity done? People believe these facts.
- C. We learn two things about the gospel story in this chapter:

Discussion:

I. The Gospel Story Is Worth *Living* For.

- A. A life of preaching it (vv. 11-14); cf. Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:15,16).
 - 1. As the answer to sin (v. 17; Rom. 6:2-4; Acts 2:38).
 - 2. As the way to heaven (vv. 20-23).
- B. A life of total submission to the rule of Christ (vv. 24-28; Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 5:8,9).
 - 1. Serving in His kingdom or church (Eph. 1:20-23; 3:21)
 - 2. Living a godly life (vv. 32-34).
 - 3. Suffering for the gospel's sake (vv. 30-32).
 - a. Deprivation.
 - b. Separation.
 - c. Indignities.
 - d. Body harm.
 - 4. Totally committed to the Lord's work (v. 58).
- C. A life of hope rather than despair (v. 19; cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

II. The Gospel Story Is Worth *Dying* For.

- A. Because of our changed bodies (vv. 35-49; 2 Cor. 4:17-5:10)
- B. Because of our victory through Christ (vv. 50-57).

Conclusion:

- A. The gospel is worth living for, because it is worth dying for.
- B. Because Christ died and now lives, we have reason both to live and die (cf. Phil. 1:21).