

**“Why Easter is a Big Deal!”
1 Corinthians 15:1 - 11**

Big Idea – Our salvation and eternal life depends on the truth of Jesus’ resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:1 “Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.

2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.

4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

8 Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

9 For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church.

10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

11 So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.”

1. It is the good news that saves.

1 “Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.

2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

Paul's readers had received the Word, trusted Christ, been saved, and were now standing on that Word as the assurance of their salvation. The fact that they were standing firm was proof that their faith was genuine and not empty.

The word "gospel" means good news, it comes from the gk word "*euangellion*" from which we get our word "evangel" and "evangelist"

Same word Paul used in Romans 1:16

2. This good news has three important, necessary parts.

Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.

He did not have any sins of His own, He died for my sins for your sins.

When Paul refers to the Scriptures, he is talking about O.T. ones like Isaiah 53:5, 6 "He was wounded for our transgressions..."

"All we like sheep have gone astray (sinned), and turned everyone to his own way and the LORD has laid on Him the sins of us all."

He was definitely dead – John 19:33 says that when the Roman soldiers who broke the legs of the other two on crosses beside him, came to Jesus they did not break His legs because He was dead already!

He was buried

John 19:38 – 42 describes how Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked Pilate for the dead body of Jesus, and used 100 pounds of spices, wrapped the body in them in linen grave clothes and put it in the garden sepulcher which was "near at hand"

He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

Scriptures like Matthew 12:40 where Jesus compared His resurrection to Jonah being 3 days in the belly of the great fish.

Also, Psalm 16:10 “You will not leave my soul in Sheol neither will you allow your Holy One to see corruption.”

Isaiah 53:10 “...it pleased the LORD to bruise Him...When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,
11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.
12 He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

3. The resurrected/risen Christ was seen by many witnesses.

5 “He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.
6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time,
7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.”

In other words, they were eyewitnesses!

Their seeing Him alive changed them from scaredy cats into bold witnesses

In Matthew 28:12 - 15 the chief priests and scribes bribed the Roman soldiers to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away His body.

4. The resurrected Christ changed a persecutor of Christ into a preacher/apostle of Christ.

8 Last of all... I also saw him.
9 For I am the least of all the apostles. I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.
10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

His name was Saul when he killed Christians, but his life changed on the Damascus Road and he became the apostle Paul.

Acts 9:15