

# The Message of the Gospel

## Lesson for Sunday, May 24, 2026

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ POP QUIZ: Tell your class that you want to do what we do in every Meet the Pastor class. Tell them this is a private exercise, and they do not have to share their answers with anyone. *There is room on the handout for them to answer the questions. If you don't use the handout, give them a notecard or something like it...*
- ⇒ Question #1: How sure are you that you are saved? Answer with a %...
- ⇒ Question #2: If you stand before God, and He asks you why He should allow you into Heaven, what would you say? *Give them time to write out their answer.*
- ⇒ Today, we want to biblically define the message of the Gospel.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. What is the Gospel?
  - a. The word “gospel” is widely used: we sing “gospel music”, people say “that’s the gospel truth,” etc.
  - b. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 is the clearest expression of the Gospel in the Bible.
  - c. Simply stated, the Gospel is the **death, burial** and **resurrection** of Jesus Christ. (Nothing more. Nothing less.)
  - d. The word “gospel” comes from a combination of two old English words – good spell, or spelling out good things, telling good things.
  - e. The Greek word literally means “good news.”
  - f. The Gospel is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The best news that the world has ever received came from a graveyard outside Jerusalem, “He is not here; He has risen!”
2. Why is the Gospel Good News?
  - a. Good news is not good news unless there is the possibility of bad news.
  - b. We find a clue about the bad news in verse 3 – “Christ died *for our sins*.”
  - c. Man has a problem. That problem is **sin**.
  - d. Sin brings about three things:
    - i. Sin brings **debt**. We have misused God’s intention for us, and we are in debt to a holy God. We reject His will, we abuse His gifts, we live as if we are our own master. These are not mistakes or accidents. They are a violation of God’s holy law. We owe God obedience but have each fallen short. We each have a sin-debt. (See Romans 3:23 & 6:23.)
    - ii. Sin brings **defilement**. We sin because we are sinners. It is who we are. We are sinners by nature. We are impure, dishonored and unfit for God’s presence. We are defiled. (See Mark 7:20-23.)
    - iii. Sin brings **dominion**. Sin rules over us. Instead of being under the dominion of Christ, we are mastered by our sin. (See Romans 6:14-23.)
  - e. How does the Gospel overcome our debt, defilement and dominion problems?
3. The **Content** of the Gospel
  - a. By Christ’s **death**, our sin debt was removed.
    - i. 1 Corinthians 15:3 – “Christ died for our sins.”
    - ii. His death is a blood atonement that pays the debt we owe to God.
    - iii. Jesus paid it all! When we receive the Gospel, our sin is annulled and the penalty and the debt is taken away.
  - b. By Christ’s **burial**, sin’s defilement was cleansed.
    - i. Vs. 4a – “And He was buried.”

- ii. Jesus was buried to prove that Jesus was dead. If He did not die, we still have the first problem discussed above.
    - iii. His burial was the confirmation and completion of Jesus's sacrificial death through which our guilt and pollution are dealt with.
    - iv. Paul ties this together in Romans 6:4. When we are saved, we are buried with Christ to dying to sin. Sin's power and defilement are broken.
  - c. By Christ's **resurrection**, sin's dominion is broken.
    - i. Jesus's resurrection is God's stamp of approval on Christ, distinguishing Him from Buddha, Confucius, and Mohammed, who all died and remained dead.
    - ii. By rising, He breaks sin's dominion, saves us from "me," and lives His life in and through believers.
  - d. The intent of the Gospel? **Believe** and be saved! "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31; Romans 1:16).
- 4. The **Extent** of the Gospel
  - a. The Gospel is the message of the Great Commission. We have been sent by Jesus to a lost world with the Good News of the Gospel. As we go, it will be important to remember the extent of the Gospel.
  - b. The Gospel extends to every **person**. The gospel is for all; there is a biblical "whosoever" – anyone who desires to be saved and repents may be saved. (See John 3:16 – "the world.")
  - c. The Gospel extends to every **place**. One can be saved anywhere – at the front of a church, airplane, submarine, street corner, or even in a Sunday School class!
  - d. The Gospel extends to every **problem**. Only the gospel addresses humanity's three major problems: sin, sorrow, and death.
  - e. As we seek to obey our commission, we cannot take the Gospel to the wrong person or the wrong place!

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Look back at your answers to the questions we asked at the beginning of this lesson.
- ⇒ Read to yourself what you wrote. The difference between Heaven and Hell is the Gospel. The only reason anyone will go to Heaven is because they have received the Gospel.
- ⇒ How sure are you now? If you cannot say 100%, please talk with your teacher today!
- ⇒ Other discussions:
  - We cannot carry out the Great Commission if we are not sharing the Gospel. How comfortable are you with sharing the Gospel?
  - Are there times we think other things we do or say is enough without sharing the Gospel? Your testimony is wonderful – but that's not the Gospel. You living a holy life is great – but that is not the Gospel. Inviting to church is something we ought to do – but that is not sharing the Gospel.