

# The Message of the Gospel – Student

## Lesson for Sunday, May 24, 2026

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ POP QUIZ: 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.*
- ⇒ Question #1: How sure are you that you are saved? Answer with a %...100% very sure, etc.
- ⇒ 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.*
- ⇒ These are the most important questions anyone could ever ask. Your answers are the difference between Heaven and Hell.
- ⇒ Today, we want to biblically define the message of the Gospel.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. What is the Gospel? (*Go slow!*)
  - a. The word “gospel” is widely used: we refer to the “gospels”; 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.
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 are each sinners by choice. Sin is a violation of God’s holy law. Because we break God’s law, we have a sin-debt. (See Romans 3:23 & 6:23.)
    - ii. Sin brings **defilement**. We are sinners by nature. It is who we are. We are impure, dishonored and unfit for God’s presence. We are defiled. (See Mark 7:20-23.)
      1. ILL: Sin corrupts. It’s like when you are eating at a restaurant and you find a hair in your food.
      2. The hair may be very small, but it ruins the meal. That’s what sin does! It doesn’t matter how big or small your sin may be, it has ruined (defiled) your relationship with the Lord.
    - iii. Sin brings **dominion**. Sin rules over us. Instead of being under the dominion of Christ, we are mastered by our sin. (See Romans 7:15-24, esp. 23-24.)
  - 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. Jesus paid our sin debt.
    - iii. Jesus paid it all! When we receive the Gospel, our sin is paid for and the penalty and the debt is taken away.

- iv. ILL: Someone paying your fine...
- 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, 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!