

Intro: Video

It has only be about 3 years for the Corinthian church since Apostle Paul first preached to them about Jesus... But he begins this part of his letter to them by saying....., "I want to REMIND you!"

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Pg 814

Sometimes we ALL need to be reminded of what Easter is about!

- Culture and Scripture sometimes get confused in our minds, all mixed up
- Life gets overwhelming and spiritual things sometimes begin to "fade" a bit, take a back seat to the rush
- Sometimes people of faith assume that everyone around them "gets it" when they really don't...never taught

1. We All Need To Be Reminded Of What We Believe From Time To Time.

Vs 1

- **Remind:** Lit = *to declare, to make known, to call to mind* (Already know....to REMIND)

Illus: Paul is doing what my favorite teachers used to do before an exam: Let's REVIEW! (Remind you of what we said!)

Gospel: Lit = *to announce, declare or bring "Good News"* 4 Parts

- Christ died for our sins: According to the Scriptures: What happened was prophesized
(Not just that He died: For OUR sins) "Just for unjust, bring us to God IN our Place
- Christ was buried That's what you do with people that have died, right?
- He was raised on 3rd day (According to the Scriptures)
- He appeared to many (Peter; the 12; 500; Paul) Some still living if you want to ask!

Illus: Some scholars believe that this is one of the earliest catechism's of the infant Church

Remember that much of education was verbal...so this is something that could be easily remembered

If you are one that writes or highlights your bible, THIS is a section you should have marked.

If someone were to ask you..."What do you believe?" This is it

4 simple parts Died for our sins; Buried, Raised on 3rd day, Appeared to many (All according to Scriptures!)

2. We All Need To Be Reminded Of What We Are To Do With The Gospel From Time To Time.

Vs 1-2

Paul is saying, Listen, I know you know this already, but let me remind you what you are to DO with it!

Just because you KNOW something doesn't mean that you are DOING what you should be doing!

5 Things We Do With the Gospel

- **Receive it:** *Not just "believe" Believe is easy: Receive means to Associate yourself with; Identify with, Agree with*
For us as Baptists, Baptism is one of the ways, the most visible way, we do that!
When we baptize, We ASK, Person ANSWERS, We LIVE IT OUT! Publically, Identified with Him
- **Take a Stand:** *To PLANT yourself, or to FIX yourself in place and not be moved!*
This is who I am...and what I believe...and I am NOT going to be moved!
Illus: Martin Luther, Great Protestant Reformer "Here I Stand, God Help me I can do no other!"
- **Be Saved by it:** *To be delivered FROM danger...but that is only half!...to be delivered TO Abundant Life!*
Gospel says: We are delivered FROM Spiritual danger, Judgment of our sin against God/Others
Gospel says: We are delivered TO an abundant life! I have come that you might have life...
Rom: For the wages of sin are death...but the GIFT of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ
- **Hold on to it:** *to seize hold of and hold on! To not let go...but to keep in hand and never surrender*
(MMA: Jui Jitzu hold, Sometimes attack, like in a choke hold, Sometimes in defense protect
When that happens the key is HOLD ON! Don't let go! No matter what...hold on!
That is what Paul is saying here...Life is hard: After you Receive, Stand, Saved...HOLD ON!!!!
- **Pass on:** *to yield over to another; to entrust to another's care; to place in another's hands*
To take from one and hand to another: The Gospel was given to me, I'm giving to you...You give...

One of the major failings in contemporary Christianity is that we don't know WHAT to DO with what we have

We seem to believe that it is sufficient to simply "believe" And that is not the case

James tells us ch 2 it isn't enough to just "believe" He says to us that TRUE belief has action associated with it...

Demons believe and tremble...

But they don't Receive, They don't Take a stand for Christ, They aren't saved, Holding, Sharing

Paul Reminds the Corinthian Church, and You and I...Live your faith out!!!!

3. We Need To Be Reminded Of Why The Gospel Is So Important.

Vs 12-19

Paul basically tells us, We have Staked EVERYTHING on the Gospel!

- Corinthians believed there was no resurrection...for anyone!
- If true, then Jesus wasn't raised
- If Jesus wasn't raised Paul's preaching and the Corinthians faith was useless (empty words) devoid of truth: LIE
- Empty words, Empty faith means we are still in our sins...Still accountable before God!!!
- Faith is futile vs 17 (Fruitless) empty, profitless, fruitless, pointless

Here is the reality: The CROSS and the RESURRECTION change everything!

- If they are NOT true...then everything we believe is empty and pointless
 - But if they ARE true...then everything changes
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| God REALLY Does care for us | He sent His son |
| Death is NOT final | There is life to come |
| Struggles are not hopeless | God holds the world in His hands! |
| Sin is Forgiven | A new life...Abundant life...Significant Life...Life that counts is possible! |

You see...If the Gospel is real...Everything Changes!

Mark 5:21ff Pg 710

If Jesus really is the Son of God...who came to die on the cross for our sin...to forgive us and give us a new life

- Sickness isn't everything
 - Hope isn't dead
 - Ridicule isn't the final word
- And
- Death isn't forever!

Help is as near as prayer!

- Like the woman with her sickness... If I can just touch His garment Reach out!
- Like Jarius the father... If He will just come...touch... Ask Him!
- Like the crowd that day wanting to get close...press in...don't give up...Ask for what you need!
- The whole world can ridicule and laugh and point and say...DON'T BOTHER...
- But when Jesus is coming by...HOPE LIVES and HELP IS NEAR!

CONCL:

Here is my challenge to you today

- Be Reminded....If your faith has faded...Be Reminded
- Be Saved...Rescued from Danger...Ask for a brand NEW LIFE!
- Hold On...if troubles and trials are trying to take you out...Hold on...don't surrender...don't give up...don't let go
- Reach Out...Jesus is here...Like the woman that pressed through the crowd...don't let him pass by
- Ask Him to touch you...Maybe you don't even have the faith to reach out..to believe...to hold on...Ask Him to do that

Elders and Deacons are going to be right down front...Ready to pray with you...WANT to pray with you

Every single one of them has been like you...in times of struggle and trial...and tears and testing...found God faithful

You come...Don't you worry about anyone or anything else...you come and ASK for what you need