

The Facts of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 says that gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation. How does the gospel save? The verse goes on to say that the gospel saves those who believe it. In order to believe it, we must first hear it (**Rom. 10:17**) and understand it (**Ephesians 3:1-5**). This is why Jesus sent the disciples out into the world (**Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20**).

What is it that we are to believe? Paul answers this question when he talks about the gospel by which we are saved in **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**. Beginning in verse 3, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the facts of the gospel which he preached and they believed.

1. *Christ died for our sins according to the scripture.* He doesn't say only that Christ died, but the gospel ("good news") is why He died. He died to save us. He died for our sins so that our sins could be forgiven through His death. And Paul also mentions that this is in fulfillment of scripture (God's word). It was God's plan which Jesus fulfilled by dying on the cross for our sins (**Isaiah 53**).
2. *Christ was buried.* The gospel gives several details about the burial that strengthen the evidence of His resurrection. He was buried in a new tomb, hewn out of solid rock. A great stone was placed there; the stone was sealed and a guard put there to protect the seal.
3. Nonetheless, the gates of Hades could not prevail against Christ, and *He arose from the dead according to the scriptures.* This is **the sign (Matthew 12:39-40)** by which we know for certain that Jesus' death has the power to take away our sins. It is also the sign that assures us of our own resurrection from death (**1 Cor. 15:20-28**) and that we have a hope of being with the Lord forever (**1 Peter 1:3-5**).
4. *And He appeared to Peter, then the Twelve...* Jesus gave these reliable witnesses many infallible proofs of His resurrection. They were sent to testify of His resurrection and its spiritual implications (**Mark 16:15-16**). We are to believe them and be baptized into His death to receive its benefits (**Rom. 6:3-4**).