

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Do You Have the Gospel? (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)**

Date: **September 17, 2017**

This week's text marks a transition in the book of 1 Corinthians from Paul's teaching on church worship to a portion of his letter devoted entirely to the gospel of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15 is one of the most helpful and succinct summaries of the gospel in all of Scripture. In the first two verses of this chapter, Paul explains that he's about to remind the Corinthian believers of the gospel that he preached to them, which they received, in which they stand, and by which they are being saved. The gospel is what saved them. The gospel is what they are currently grounded in. And the gospel is what will sanctify them until God calls them home. In this week's study, we will go back to the basics of the Christian faith as we re-center ourselves around the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. What does the word "remind" mean in verse 1? How have other translations translated this word? What are some implications of this?
 - b. Paul is declaring "the gospel," (v. 1) to the Corinthian believers. Why does Paul refer to it as "the" gospel instead of as "a" gospel? What does this infer?
 - c. What is the gospel? How would you explain it to somebody who's never heard it before?
 - d. If someone lives on an island all alone and never hears about Jesus Christ, can they be saved? What about someone from another religion who seeks to do good works but has never heard of Jesus Christ?
 - e. What does it mean that the gospel is exclusive? Why is there no other way to be saved?
 - f. What are some counterfeit gospels that false teachers have taught? How can we tell whether or not someone's teaching about the gospel is true or counterfeit?

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- g. What's the difference between knowing and receiving the gospel? How does one receive the gospel?
- h. At the end of verse 1, Paul writes that the Corinthians are standing in the gospel. What does it mean to stand in the gospel?
- i. In verse 2, Paul explains that we are being saved by the gospel. Why do we need saving and what do we need saving from? Why is it important for people to understand they need saving in order for them to properly receive the gospel?
- j. In verse 2 Paul uses a conditional statement. He says that the gospel will save them "if they hold fast to the word." What does it mean to hold fast to the word? What happens to people who "believed in vain," (v. 2)?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel. Why is it important that we regularly, even daily, remind ourselves of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why is the gospel not something that we would ever move on from?
3. How would you explain the gospel to somebody else?
4. What does it mean to stand in the gospel? Where else might we be tempted to stand when things get difficult? How can we ensure that our automatic response to trials and difficulty is to stand in Christ?
5. Paul teaches us that some who claimed to have received the gospel will not hold fast to it. Does this mean it is possible for someone to lose their salvation? What does Paul mean by this teaching? What can we do to ensure that we "hold fast" to the gospel and to what we've been taught in Scripture?