

Four Lessons

1st Corinthians 15:1-2



In 1st Corinthians 15:1-2 Paul states, **“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”**

Let us reflect on four important lessons from these two verses.

God’s Power = The Gospel

In verse one the message that Paul declared was the gospel, **“Moreover, brethren, I declared to you the gospel . . .”** (1st Corinthians 15:1) It is the gospel that is God’s power to save. Remember Romans 1:16, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”** It is the gospel that enables one to be built up,

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32) The gospel is God’s message to man that enables one to have hope. In Colossians 1:5 Paul states, **“Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”**

The Gospel = Must Be Proclaimed

Also in 1st Corinthians 15:1 we read, **“ . . . I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, . . .”**

The great commission given by our Lord involves proclaiming the gospel message to others. Jesus taught, **“ . . . ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”** (Matthew 28:18-20) On the Day of Pentecost the hearts of those who believed were pricked by the preaching of the gospel, **“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”** (Acts 2:37) In Acts 8:4 we learn, **“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”** Paul instructs Timothy, **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort,**

with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2nd Timothy 4:2) Paul understood the unfathomable value of proclaiming the gospel as he states, **“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”** (Ephesians 3:8)

The Gospel = Must Be Received

The person who desires the benefits from the gospel must be willing to receive the message. Paul states, **“ . . . which also you received . . .”** (1st Corinthians 15:1) It should be pointed out that receiving the gospel goes beyond simply hearing the gospel proclaimed. Remember the example of those who became Christians at Thessalonica as revealed in 1st Thessalonians 2:13, **“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”** James 1:21-22 states, **“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”** The scriptures are clear, the one who fails to obey the gospel will receive everlasting destruction (2nd Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Maintain Steadfastness = Obeying Gospel

Obedience to the gospel is not limited to one’s initial compliance. Remember, in 1st Corinthians 15:2 Paul also states, **“By which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believe in vain.”** Paul continues to emphasize the importance of steadfastness by stating, **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”** (1st Corinthians 15:58)

Conclusion

The numerous benefits available to the one who chooses to receive and obey the gospel are immeasurable. Therefore, let us always be receptive, stay focused and hold fast to the teachings of the gospel.