

First Importance

4-9-17

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (ESV)

For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins **in accordance with the Scriptures**, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day **in accordance with the Scriptures**.

Last week message was Baseline Knowledge!

1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)

We preach Christ crucified

This week we expand on that Baseline Knowledge!

1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (ESV)

Now **I would remind you**, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

What is the gospel, the continuation of baseline knowledge, “We preach Christ crucified”?

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (ESV)

For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.

I delivered to you as of “first importance” what I also received:

- Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures
- Christ was buried, HE was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

Remember this when you are drawn into any religious, moral, social, or intellectual argument.

- **Baseline Knowledge – Christ Crucified**
- **First Importance – Christ Died for our sins**
- **First Importance – Christ was Buried and Raised on the third day.**

We have the witness of these facts in the Scriptures both the Old and New Testaments. Plus we have multiple human witnesses of these very same facts:

1 Corinthians 15:5–8 (ESV)

Jesus appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then **he appeared** to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then **he appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, **he appeared also to me.**

Eyewitnesses of the Resurrected Christ:

Peter

500+

James

All Apostles and Paul himself

This is Powerful because they did not have any earthly advantage to embrace these facts:

#1 The one they trusted to establish the kingdom was killed. #2 They were in hiding in fear because their allegiance to Jesus made them Religious and Social outcasts. #3 Therefore, they were identified to suffer persecution and death.

Paul was one of the early persecutors of Christians!

1 Corinthians 15:9 (ESV)

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

A few years later, Jesus appeared to him! Paul at the expense of losing his religious and social status became one of Jesus' most zealous followers!

1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. **On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them,** though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

As evidenced by Paul's testimony, this experience with Christ changes one's purpose in life and gives one the power to accomplish that new purpose.

Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

For this I toil, **struggling with all his energy** that he powerfully works within me.

With the death and resurrection of Christ comes our salvation, our acceptance by God. With our salvation and acceptance by God comes the divine power of God to achieve all the things that God intended.

Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

First Importance: Christ died for our sins; he was buried; he was raised on the third in accordance with the Scriptures changes everything. **The evidence continues today. We are the continuation of what the Scriptures say! We preach the same message Paul and the Apostles preached!**

1 Corinthians 15:11 (ESV)

Whether then it was I or they, **so we preach** and so you believed.

Summary: First Importance

2Cor.5:21 (NASB)

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Prophetic Team
Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.