

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THEREFORE WHETHER IT WERE I OR THEY, SO WE PREACH, AND SO YE BELIEVED

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING OCTOBER 20, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-11**

1 Corinthians 15: 10-11, *But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11, **Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.***

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Paul addresses **1 Corinthians** to the church, which was in the City of Corinth, the sin city of the Roman Empire in Paul's day.
- b. **1 Corinthians** is one of Paul's **thirteen epistles** setting forth the doctrine for the church. Those Epistles are Romans through Philemon.
- c. Paul, being the spokesman for the church, wrote it from Ephesus which is about 40 miles west of the city of Athens, around AD 57. **Romans 11:13**, *For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 1 Timothy 2:7, Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. 2 Timothy 1:11, Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. Romans 15:16, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*
- d. Paul deals with the carnality and spirituality of the Corinthian Christians.
- e. With respect to spirituality, Paul deals with three things:
 1. Every believer has a gift given to him by Christ. **Ephesians 4:4-7**, *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5, One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7, But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*
 2. This gift is to be exercised in love. **1 Corinthians 13:13**, *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*
 3. He deals with the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:14**, *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*
1 Corinthians 15:17, *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in*

your sins. 1 Corinthians 15:20, But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

- f. The beauty of Christian faith is that it never views life as ending in death.
- g. It looks out into eternity as taught in the Scriptures. **Hebrews 9:27, And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**
- h. The great resurrection chapter deals with the Gospel; the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2, By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3, For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**
- i. Frankly, without the bodily resurrection everything else even the death of Christ is meaningless.
- j. In His death, He subtracted our sins; but in His resurrection, He gives us His righteousness, His assurance and an abundant entrance into Heaven!! **1 Peter 1:4, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**
- k. **We can now stand in the righteousness of Christ. Romans 4:25, He was delivered for our offenses, but He was raised again for our justification. Romans 3:22, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 1 Corinthians 1:30, But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**
- l. There are some other major themes taught in **1 Corinthians**.
 - 1. Christ alone is able to cleanse us of our sins and give us a right standing before God. **Acts 4:12, Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**
 - 2. Only Christians are able to give true love.
 - 3. True love is a decision, an action, and a commitment.
 - 4. God will never let us be tempted beyond our limits to endure. **1 Corinthians 10:13, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**
 - 5. Brothers and sisters in Christ share a oneness, a unity not made available to the world. Psalm 133:1, Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
 - 6. Mature Christians need to limit their personal liabilities for the benefit of those who may be weaker.
 - 7. Believers receive gifts in order to glorify God, to work the ministry, and edify the Body of Christ in love. **Ephesians 4:11-12, And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. 12, For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.**
 - 8. Jesus Christ is interested in all areas of our life and is the answer to all our

problems. Colossians 2:10, And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message October 20, 2019

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

d. And that he was seen of Cephas, and then of the twelve.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:5**, *And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*
2. The next proof of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the number of witnesses that the Apostle Paul was able to list.
3. *You cannot get around the eye-witness report of these witnesses.*
4. Any lawyer in any courtroom would love to have that many witnesses for his position as Paul did for proof of the resurrection.
5. He first mentions Cephas; this is of course Simon Peter to whom Jesus appeared privately. **John 1:42**, *And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.*
6. God does not choose to enlighten us with respect to the conversation that was between the Lord Jesus and Peter.
7. After all Peter had denied Him; Peter had to get things straight with our Lord just as you and I must straighten things out. **John 13:38**, *Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice. John 14:1*, **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:2**, *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*
8. Our Lord is still in the soul saving business and in restoring fellowship to those who have slipped away from Him.
9. So He was seen of Cephas and then the Bible says He was also seen of the twelve.
10. Who are the twelve?
11. From what we can glean from Scripture, this is probably a collective term used for the body of the disciples.
12. Having already appeared to Cephas, He will appear to the Apostle Paul later on who will make up the twelve.
13. We find that Judas is already dead at this time.
14. So He appears to the ten disciples, left, and uses the collective term "the twelve."

e. After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:6**, *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*
2. There is no question that Jesus Christ was seen of above five hundred brethren which does not include the women and children.
3. At the time of this writing, He indicated "the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."
4. The Lord Jesus Christ told them publicly that after going to the cross to die for

the sins of mankind, He was going to meet them in Galilee. **Matthew 26:32**, *But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.*

5. There were above five hundred of Jesus' followers who met Him there.
6. What a tremendous homecoming.

f. After that, he was seen of James.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:7**, After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.
2. Who is James?
3. When we look at the Word of God, we find there are several James listed in Scripture.
4. This is the **first** James, the son of Zebedee. Recorded for us in **Matthew 4:21**, *And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.*
5. James and his brother John were fisherman.
6. Jesus called these brothers to follow Him.
7. There was a **second** James who was the son of Alphaeus recorded in **Matthew 10:3**, *Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;*
8. The **third** James is the half brother of Jesus Christ. We must remember that Jesus had no earthly father. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. This James is also mentioned as the brother of Jose, Simon and Judas; not Judas Iscariot. **Matthew 13:55-56**, *Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? **56.** *And his sisters are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?**
9. This James is the author of the Book of James.
10. Initially he rejected Jesus' earthly ministry but was saved later and became a leader in the church of Jerusalem. **John 7:5**, *For neither did his brethren believe in him.*
11. The **fourth** James is James the less. He is also known as James the younger.
12. This is recorded in **Mark 15:40**, *There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;*
13. The **fifth** and last James is referred to as the bother of the Apostle Judas. This is found in **Luke 6:16**, *And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.*
14. We can clearly see it was James the son of Zebedee whom the Lord appeared unto and then unto all the apostles.

g. And last of all he was seen of me.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:8**, And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.
2. This is none other than the Apostle Paul.
3. One of the requirements to be an Apostle was they had to have seen the resurrected Christ. **1 Corinthians 9:1**, *Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

4. There are a lot of people who call themselves apostles today, but they certainly are not of the group of authentic Apostles whom Jesus called and gave gifts to do all kinds of miraculous things.
5. Paul goes on to tell us that he was "one born out of due time."
6. We do know Paul had persecuted the church and never got over the scars.
7. He calls himself the least of the apostles. **1 Corinthians 15:9**, For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **1 Timothy 1:15**, This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.
8. I believe he is being modest because when we look at Paul after salvation, we see he was indeed a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and accomplished more than many of the others. "but **I laboured more abundantly than they all:** yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." **Philippians 3:13**, **Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**
9. He was a great missionary for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and embarked upon three missionary journeys to include opening the Gospel to Europe.
10. If we could emulate just a little bit of Paul's zealotness for the Gospel, how Chesswood Baptist Church would grow and blossom.
11. Paul's heart was right; he cannot be considered the least of the Apostles but being the humble man, he was that is where he places himself.
12. He gives us a reason for this placement. He says he was never meet to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church of God. **1 Corinthians 15:9**, For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
13. Then Paul gives us a startling statement.
 - h. **But by the grace of God I am what I am.**
 1. **1 Corinthians 15:10-11**, But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. **1 Corinthians 15:11**, Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.
 2. Paul realized that when the grace of God comes into the heart of an individual it makes them special in the sight of God.
 3. The Bible tells us by grace we are saved. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9, Not of works, lest any man should boast.
 4. God's grace had to be bestowed on the Apostle Paul just like that grace is bestowed upon you and me at the time of salvation.
 5. That grace was not bestowed in vain upon Paul and neither is it in vain upon us as believers regardless of what the current news headlines state. "and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;"
 6. Notice what he says "but I laboured more abundantly than they all:" so there is a place for works **after** salvation. We conclude we work not for our salvation

- but for rewards.
7. We must realize **we must go to the Judgment Seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10**, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. John 9:4, I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. Ephesians 5:16, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 1 Corinthians 3:15, If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*
 8. This reminds me of the **Book of Jeremiah** where he says the Word of God is like a hammer. **Jeremiah 23:29**, *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*
 9. *When we get the Word of God into our hearts we must go and share it.*
 10. Paul isn't saying he is not a worthy apostle because he persecuted the church because he was forgiven when he came to know Christ as personal Saviour. **Jeremiah 20:9**, *Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.*
 11. We must realize that all of our sins; past, present and future are totally forgiven by God. **Psalm 103:12**, *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Psalms 85:2, Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. Jeremiah 33:8, And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. Psalms 37:28, For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. Titus 2:14, Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
 12. As a result of this the Apostle Paul could have a message. **1 Corinthians 15:11**, *Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.*
 13. It all depends on our belief and what we are going to do with the Lord Jesus Christ in this life. **God is giving us righteousness for our belief.**
 14. Do you know the Saviour my friend? Are you sure there was a bodily resurrection from the grave? Do you have that in your heart?
 15. It is not a question; it is a historical fact that Jesus died and rose again. Remember, facts will not save us, it is believing the Gospel that provides salvation. We must remember that Paul was willing to die for this precious truth. **Acts 21:13**, *Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*
 16. We must believe the record that God hath given unto us and that life is in His Son. **1 John 5:11-12**, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12, He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Would you come to the side of the living Saviour today?
- b. **1 Corinthians 1:21.** states why our first priority at Chesswood Baptist Church is preaching the Word of God. *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*
- c. You have not committed the unpardonable sin; the Holy Spirit is drawing you to the side of the living Saviour.
- d. Would you come to Christ and be saved?
- e. The unpardonable sin is not on the basis of what you have done or what you will do, it is on the basis of the fact that if you reject God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and the plan of Salvation that Jesus Christ purchased by His resurrection; Hell is your lot for eternity. Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.
- f. You must understand that you are not going to be condemned you are condemned all ready. **John 3:18,** *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
- g. There is no question left to be answered concerning the bodily resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The next move is up to you. 1 John 5:11-12, And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12, He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. Come to Jesus and be saved today.
- h. Please stand.

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