

Of First Importance

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Corinthians 15:1-4.
- B. The ultimate truth of the Spirit in this passage is the resurrection of the body after death.
- C. Death cannot be avoided.
- D. The resurrection of the body is an essential part of the Christian faith.

II. What the gospel is.

- A. Christ died for our sins.
 - 1. The good news is that Christ's death accomplished something for us.
 - 2. It changed us, delivered us, and set us free.
 - 3. Christ dealt with our sin on the cross.
 - 4. Since God is perfect, He demands perfection.
- B. Christ was buried. This marked the acceptance of the fact of Jesus' death.
- C. He rose from the dead on the third day.
 - 1. This fulfilled all predictions.
 - 2. Our faith rests upon facts, not mere philosophy.

III. What the gospel does.

- A. There is an expectation that these facts would affect the Christian.
- B. Something in the Christian must die—the selfish part of a him.
- C. If we release our hold over the old self, a personal resurrection occurs.
 - 1. The test of true faith is that it cannot quit.
 - 2. True faith can fail at times, but it cannot quit.
 - 3. When one believes in God's love for him, he has a place of security.
- D. The gospel is God's love despite all our failures—it is a place to stand.

E. The gospel saves the believer presently—it enables him to use his time for eternal profit.

Application questions:

1. What would you say the gospel is at its most basic level?

2. Is the gospel message just for nonbelievers? Explain.

3. How could you use a personal resurrection? How can the gospel help you here?
