

Paul has finished his exhortation on their problem of factions, lack of respect and love for one another, and their misuse of the grace gifts. Now he moves on to address our future state probably to correct a false teaching that appears to have been circulating that resurrection is only of the soul and not the body.

Chapter 14 was the most descriptive passage on the worship service in the early church. Now in chapter 15, we will read the most comprehensive passage in Scripture on bodily resurrection. Everything they believe and do should have been based in this good news that Paul first preached to them. It is the foundation of their faith. They may have been forgetting its importance as we tend to do over time. That is where many of our problems have their origin. If we would stand firmly on the gospel foundation, the solution to many problems including false teaching would be obvious. Communion is our regular reminder. But as we have read in an earlier passage, they were not even doing that in a proper manner (1 Corinthians 11:22ⁱ).

The ultimate problem facing mankind is death. The second law of thermodynamics (that things decay) has only been overridden by Jesus in His miracles and in His resurrection. Everything in the world decays. Our bodies age and finally cease to function. Biologists tell us that it seems that we were designed to live forever. There are self-correcting mechanisms in our cells that check for errors in the DNA coding behind all that takes place in our physical bodies. But oxidative stress damages these mechanisms and they breakdown which results in failure to repair cellular damage. Something was introduced into our system that overtime limited the body's ability to repair itself.

American director Woody Allen said, "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it by not dying." *"Denying death is not an option because death is unavoidable. Delaying death is only temporary because death is universal. Embracing death is unsatisfying because death is unnatural."*ⁱⁱ

Death is the last enemy to be defeated (1 Corinthians 15:26ⁱⁱⁱ). It is a result of the fallen world in which we live. The world is in this condition because of sin. Imagine what it would be like without that Second Law of Thermodynamics, if things did not decay and grow old. Resurrection is the only real evidence that shows there is a way to override that law. Jesus proved it is possible. And that is the core of the gospel. God loves us and has made a way for us to take part in Jesus' victory over death. But even more important is that in our new and eternal bodies we will stand before God guiltless because Jesus paid our sin debt! This is what the Corinthians were wavering on, which resulted in so many problems. We must ask ourselves if we are living with the life to come in mind.

¹ 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. 1 Corinthians 15:1,2 Paul introduces the basics of the gospel by telling them they are *"being saved if they hold fast to the word I preached to you."* That is not the way most evangelical pastors would speak. What is this "being saved"? After all, numerous passages present the formula for salvation as an immediate result of believing (Acts 16:31^{iv}). Further adding to the difficulty is that pesky little word "if" (1:18^v; Hebrews 2:1-4^{vi}; 10:28,29^{vii}; 6:4-6^{viii}). The fact that both assurance of salvation and the ongoing experience with the word "if" is at

the center of Calvinist and Armenian debate. Whether they never were saved or gave up their salvation is the controversial issue. I will leave it to God to explain to us in heaven. If you think you are saved and can live however you please, you should heed Paul's advice here and let the fear of God encourage you to hold fast to the gospel. If you think you are too weak to follow Jesus, remember that Jesus is your Shepherd and promised to be with you to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20^{ix}; John 10:28^x; Philippians 1:6^{xi}).

Is Paul warning them that if they go back and trust in obedience to the law, they are not saved? In other words, they believed in vain. If the gospel is just an idea that is not essential to their daily lives, then they are not holding fast to it. That was the root problem behind all their issues. It has always been the issue: religion or relationship.

There is another translation for the Greek "in vain" which could clear up the issue. The Greek/English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature gives the translation as "pertaining to being without careful thought, without due consideration, in a haphazard manner." Thiselton translates it as having an "incoherent belief." Garland agrees with these translations but adds, "We cannot exclude the possibility that Paul also has in mind the ultimate outcome of such a truncated faith (cf. Romans 13:4^{xii}; Galatians 3:4^{xiii}; 4:11^{xiv}), since it has an impact on their salvation."^{xv} In other words, they are saved if they hold fast to the word preached unless their initial belief was incomplete. Whichever translation is closer to Paul's intended meaning, let us take Paul's advice and hold fast to the word that was preached to us.

³ *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,* 1 Corinthians 15:3 This is one of the earliest written statements of the faith of the early church. While this was written in the A.D. 50s, Paul must have heard it from the Apostles only a few years after Jesus' death. "Paul did not originate the message he gave them. He simply passed on what he had received. This is the accepted language for the handing on of tradition. What follows is a very early summary of the church's traditional teaching. Paul is not working on some views he has worked out for himself; he is passing on what had been told him. This is the kerygma, the proclamation, the gospel preached by the early church"^{xvi}. It begins by telling us that the death of Christ was for our sins.

This seems to contradict Galatians 1:11,12^{xvii} in which Paul says he did not receive his revelation from man. I think it is easily resolved in that he found the same truth while studying the Scriptures in the deserts of Syria but then had it reaffirmed when he met afterward with the apostles who would have shared with Paul the life and ministry of Jesus.

Jaroslav Pelikan wrote, "If Christ is risen—then nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen—then nothing else matters." TIMOTHY KELLER HAS WRITTEN: "If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said?" The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."^{xviii}

What is of first importance to the gospel and in believers' lives as well is the list of facts Paul begins in verse three. The first is that Christ (a term meaning anointed one/Messiah) died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. 700 years earlier the prophet Isaiah wrote, ⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we*

are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5,6

That He died for our sins is the answer to our dilemma of how we can stand before a holy God and answer for the evil to which we succumbed. If you say “by outweighing the evil with good” as the Muslims and many other faiths do, I do not think it is being intellectually honest. When we think that way, we are not considering the holiness of God (Habakkuk 1:13^{xix}), the fact that all we have and are is a gift from Him, and how evil our thoughts and desires often are.

Jesus told us the Great Command is to love God with our whole being (Matthew 22:37,38^{xx}). How do any of us do with that one command? And the second is like it, loving our neighbor as our self (Matthew 22:39^{xxi}). How are we doing with that? I can tell you I fall way short of both. Thanks be to Christ that He died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. Amen?

In accordance with the Scriptures is seen clearly in the prediction in Isaiah 53, but also in the one-sided covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis 15. God alone went through the torn animals promising a similar death if either side broke the covenant. It is also in accordance with the Jewish worship laws in which the sins of the people were placed on the head of the scapegoat, and yet it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin (Leviticus 16:21^{xxii}; Hebrews 10:4^{xxiii}). This is why John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus declared, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” John 1:29^{xxiv} In hindsight we can see that the entire Old Testament points forward to the resolution of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden by a substitute who could take our sins and make us righteous before God (Luke 24:44^{xxv}).

⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:4 Jesus' death for our sins, burial, and resurrection on the third day were all fulfillment of prophecies. (See Isaiah 53; Hosea 6:2^{xxvi}; Psalm 22:16^{xxvii}.) This is the essence of the gospel. There are thousands of peripheral issues and doctrines, some of which Paul has gone over in this letter, but this is the core of our faith (John 3:16^{xxviii}). Of course, His death for our sins is dependent on the fact that He was sinless, "the Righteous One," and therefore God incarnate, born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14^{xxix}). His resurrection testifies to the fact that the Father accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. The core of the gospel depends on conditions that also were inferred such as the virgin birth and sinless life of Jesus.

Buried -Jesus' corpse was laid in a tomb, and even that was predicted in Isaiah 53:9^{xxx}. Raised - the tense of the verb now changes to a perfect verb tense, one that belongs in the past but affects us presently. (For "third day" being according to Scripture see Hosea 6:2^{xxiii} and types in Genesis 42:18^{xxxi}; Exodus 19:16^{xxxii}; Joshua 2:22^{xxxiii}; Ezra 6:15^{xxxiv}; Jonah 1:17^{xxxv}. The Jonah reference Jesus referred to in Matthew 12:40^{xxxvi}.) The third day refers to the day after tomorrow (Luke 13:32^{xxxvii}), thus buried Friday afternoon and raised Sunday morning is referred to as three days. Resurrection is the hope and present power that the Corinthians needed to keep from following the Corinthian culture of competition and division. It is that hope and power within us that keep us from conforming to the world around us.

⁵ and that he 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. 1 Corinthians 15:5-7

The only account we have of the first meeting with Peter/Cephas is in Luke 24:33,34^{xxxviii} which does not give us any details. Oswald Chambers writes, *Peter had denied Jesus Christ with oaths and curses, and yet after the Resurrection Jesus appeared to Peter alone. He restored him in private, then He restored him before the others.*^{xxxix}

Resurrection appearances to over 500 people is a certain confirmation that he did indeed conquer death. We do not have any other record of the 500 who saw Jesus, but the readers must have heard of the event. Most of the 500 were still alive when this was written in the 50s, and they could confirm the account. Some of the 500 had since died referred to here as asleep, which is a Jewish metaphor. Jewish law required testimony to be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15^{xl}), so how about five hundred! Jesus then had a special meeting with James of which we know nothing other than this passage. Finally, the apostles at the ascension, which probably includes the apostle that would be chosen to take Judas place (Acts 1:26^{xli}).

Paul takes several verses to identify the eyewitnesses who were still living to reinforce the most amazing and essential part of the gospel. If Jesus had only said he was dying for the sins of the world, how would we know it was truly the case? How would we know God accepted Jesus' sacrifice of himself for our sins? The resurrection with the hundreds of witnesses and accompanying facts, such as the empty tomb, and the failure to find a body, and the disciples' willingness to die for what they had witnessed are the details that confirm our faith.

⁸ *Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.* 1 Corinthians 15:8 Shortly after the ascension, about one to three years, Jesus appeared to Paul on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-5^{xlii}). "Untimely born" means abortion or miscarriage. Unlike the other apostles, he had not heard Jesus teach or seen His miracles. He was not chosen on the shores of Galilee. It was a choice of God that no one saw coming. Never underestimate the power of God to turn a life completely around. It demonstrates the greatness of his grace.

Apostles were chosen to be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. Paul was certain of his apostleship because Jesus told him through Ananias' prophecy that he was "a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles" (Acts 9:15^{xliii}). That is one way to say he is an apostle - one officially sent to represent the one in authority. In Ephesians 1:1^{xliv} and the first verse of this letter, he tells us it was by the will of God that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:1 tells us ¹ *Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead*—That is another fact that supports the resurrection. Paul was a devout Jewish leader whose whole life had been rising in the ranks to one day lead. His passion to persecute Christians came from the fact that he believed they were following a false messiah. He thought they were corrupting Judaism. He obtained letters from the Sanhedrin to the synagogue leaders of Damascus to help Paul roundup those Jesus followers. He was on his way to do that when the risen Lord Jesus appeared to him. His about-face was instantaneous. The man he thought to be a false messiah he then proclaimed as the true Messiah that his nation had killed. He threw away all the respect he earned from his leaders and preached Jesus as the Messiah and fulfillment of the prophecies (Acts 9:20^{xlv}). That must have sent shock waves throughout the Jewish world.

⁹ *For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.* ¹⁰ *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. 1 Corinthians 15:9,10 Paul's humility in being called to be an apostle stems from his former life of persecuting Christians. Because of that, he was zealous to give himself totally to Jesus' service by yielding to the grace of God in him. He later wrote that he was the **least of the saints** (Ephesians 3:7,8^{xlvi}). And in one of his last letters, he calls himself as **the chief of sinners** (1 Timothy 1:15^{xlvii}). It seems his humility increased over time as he saw the Holy Spirit working through him to bring so many to Jesus. We should all acknowledge that the true kingdom work in any of us is the grace of God who makes us what we are. Do not let the grace of God in you be in vain. Give it all you have. Verse ten reveals that interesting combination of working hard but knowing it is the grace of God that has empowered us to do so (Romans 12:3^{xlviii}).

Steven Um sums up the work of God Paul is describing: *The gospel de-centers unbelievers from the center of their own lives. They recognize their unworthiness. They recognize they are what they are by grace. The gospel is now a functional identity. Without effort or work Christians are put in perfect relationship with God and experience all the benefits of union with Christ. His incarnation means that he always meets everyone where he or she is. His perfect life means that Christians are perfectly accepted by God regardless of their ability to be righteous. His substitutionary death means that Christians need no longer fear punishment for their sins—he has borne the full penalty. His burial means that his death on one's behalf was no mirage and that someone has gone to face the consequences to replace death. His resurrection means that death has been defeated—it has been stripped of its power and sting. Christians will ultimately be raised again to new life because of their union with the resurrected Christ.*^{xlix}

The undeserved grace of God empowers us to be and do all that God had planned for us to do from before we were born (Ephesians 2:10^l). Now made right with God, some would say there is nothing we need to do. On the contrary, Paul says that grace enables us to work harder out of gratitude for what has been freely given to us. Paul's zeal to plant churches and spread the gospel (along with local persecution) seems to have motivated the other apostles to get out of Jerusalem and do what Jesus had told them to do (Acts 1:8^{li}, Mark 16:15^{lii}). If we are willing and cooperating, it is the power of God in us doing the work. All the credit goes to God. But are we yielding to that power and serving out of gratitude? How is the grace of God working in you?

¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. 1 Corinthians 15:11 All those who proclaimed the gospel to the Corinthians shared this same foundational message, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for our sins. Different styles and personalities but the same uniting message, the same grace in each, empowered by the same Holy Spirit, and all for building up the body to be more like Jesus. Paul is still pointing out the need to not center their faith around men but in the Lord whose grace empowers all of them, and all of us as well.

This gospel tells us our sin debt, past, present, and future was paid in full on the cross. We say goodbye to past guilt and only look back to consider how great a deliverance is ours in Jesus. Presently we have the power of the Holy Spirit to say "No!" to temptation and to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16^{liii}). When we stumble, we are reminded that the sacrifice of Jesus paid it all, and we are even more determined to let Jesus' life be manifested in us. We look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises, to

the completion of our salvation, to our heavenly sinless bodies, and to eternity in our Savior's loving presence, all of which is the result of this proclamation that Paul received by revelation and the Apostles' testimony. This good news is at the center of the believers' lives. Jesus declared that if we want to find life, we must first lose it (Matthew 16:25^{liv}). We must die with Christ on the cross to our will and our ways and welcome His resurrected life to be our life. That is the deepest joy! That is the greatest fulfillment!

Questions:

- 1 What was Paul reminding the Corinthians of?
- 2 What is the big “if” in verse 2? Discuss.
- 3 What is the optional translation of “in vain”?
- 4 What is of first importance?
- 5 What is the importance of the word “delivered” in verse 3?
- 6 What two things were predicted and where were they predicted?
- 7 Review the Pelikan and Keller quotes.
- 8 Who were the eyewitnesses?
- 9 What is the evidence of Paul’s growing humility?
- 10 How should our belief in resurrection affect our daily lives?

ⁱ **1 Corinthians 11:22 (ESV)**

²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

ⁱⁱ Steven Um, Preaching the Word - 1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross.

ⁱⁱⁱ **1 Corinthians 15:26 (ESV)**

²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

^{iv} **Acts 16:31 (ESV)**

³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

^v **1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

^{vi} **Hebrews 2:1-4 (ESV)**

¹ Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

^{vii} **Hebrews 10:28-29 (ESV)**

²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

^{viii} **Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV)**

⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

^{ix} **Matthew 28:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

^x **John 10:28 (ESV)**

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

^{xi} **Philippians 1:6 (ESV)**

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

^{xii} **Romans 13:4 (ESV)**

⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

^{xiii} **Galatians 3:4 (ESV)**

⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

^{xiv} **Galatians 4:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

^{xv} Garland, 1 Corinthians, p 683

^{xvi} Um, Stephen T., *Preaching the Word - 1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross*

^{xvii} **Galatians 1:11-12 (ESV)**

¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

^{xviii} Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God, Belief in the Age of Skepticism* (London: Penguin, 2008), 202

^{xix} **Habakkuk 1:13 (ESV)**

¹³ You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

^{xx} **Matthew 22:37-38 (ESV)**

³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.

^{xxi} **Matthew 22:39 (ESV)**

³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

^{xxii} **Leviticus 16:21 (ESV)**

²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.

^{xxiii} **Hebrews 10:4 (ESV)**

⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

^{xxiv} **John 1:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

^{xxv} **Luke 24:44 (ESV)**

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

^{xxvi} **Hosea 6:2 (ESV)**

² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

^{xxvii} **Psalms 22:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

^{xxviii} **John 3:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

^{xxix} **Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

^{xxx} **Isaiah 53:9 (ESV)**

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

^{xxxi} **Genesis 42:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:

^{xxxii} **Exodus 19:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

^{xxxiii} **Joshua 2:22 (ESV)**

²² They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing.

^{xxxiv} **Ezra 6:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

^{xxxv} **Jonah 1:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

^{xxxvi} **Matthew 12:40 (ESV)**

⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

^{xxxvii} **Luke 13:32 (ESV)**

³² And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.

^{xxxviii} **Luke 24:33-34 (ESV)**

³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

^{xxxix} O.C. -My Utmost for His Highest.

^{xl} **Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

^{xli} **Acts 1:26 (ESV)**

²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

^{xlii} **Acts 9:3-5 (ESV)**

³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

^{xliii} **Acts 9:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

^{xliv} **Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)**

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

^{xlv} **Acts 9:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

^{xlvi} **Ephesians 3:7-8 (ESV)**

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

^{xlvii} **1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

^{xlviii} **Romans 12:3 (ESV)**

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

^{xlix} .Um. Stephen T, Preaching the Word - 1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross.

^l **Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

^{li} **Acts 1:8 (ESV)**

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

^{lii} **Mark 16:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

^{liii} **Galatians 5:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

^{liv} **Matthew 16:25 (ESV)**

²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.