

# THE GOSPEL OF PAUL (Part 2)

## 1 Corinthians 15

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### **GREETINGS**

It is a great honor for me to serve you with the grace and the love of God. We are in a series of 1 Corinthians 15 and I trust that you are going to be blessed.

### **COMMUNION**

Father, I want to thank You for Your love and Your grace. I want to thank You for Your kindness towards us and that each one of us will be greatly inspired by what You give us in Christ. I thank You, Father, and this is my heart's desire, that each one of us that are hearing this message, including myself, that we will just have more of an understanding of what You have done for us. Amen

**2 Corinthians 3:17** *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty* (freedom, liberation).

Here he is talking about actually having your heart and your life veiled from the glory of God. It talks about a life where who God is cannot be reflected inside you. He says, "Where Jesus is, there is freedom."

Now, a very beautiful thing he says here is, *The Lord is that Spirit*. Just before that he was talking about the glory of manifestation of God on the face of Moses. That's what he was talking about. So the Spirit of life... Jesus Christ is that Spirit. The lordship of Jesus and who He is and where He rules from today, where He is seated at the right hand of God, is the Spirit or the force of life that will take the veil away, allowing the glory of God to shine or reflect on your face. That is what this is all about.

When I talk about the glory of God reflecting on your face, it is simply talking about having who God is inside and manifesting in human being. That's what it is about. It simply means that you will have the fruit of the Spirit in your life as well as a life that is in line with the expectation of immortality... bodily immortality, in Jesus.

It says, "... *the Lord is that Spirit*." So, what is the Spirit of God? It says the Lord, the rulership of Christ, is that Spirit where we are liberated. .

If we say that the Lord is the Spirit, what are we talking about? We are talking about how Jesus Christ came and how God prepared a body that was broken. As that body was broken, the body of death was broken. As Jesus was raised from the dead and is now The Christ, He is now the One who is enabled and anointed to manifest His rule over sin and death in the earth.

So, when we say that the Lord is the Spirit, when we see the word, Lord, there, we are thinking of the body of Jesus, the human body of Jesus, seated at the right hand of God. That means we are thinking of the human, Jesus, that has the rule over physical death and whatsoever death brings to our lives. How He then exercises His rule in us and then unveils or brings forth our face shining with the glory of God.

When we partake of the Communion, we are mindful of the fact that good works is not what God demands but what God gives. We are mindful of the fact that we are sharing in the glory of God and that God brings forth His glory in us.

Let me pray and thank the Lord for His body...

Father, I want to thank You that we, as a web fellowship, can partake of the body and the blood, experiencing the brand new life You have given us. Amen and amen

## **TODAY'S MESSAGE: THE GOSPEL OF PAUL (Part 2) ... IF**

Today we are continuing our series where I am going verse by verse through most of 1Corinthians 15. We are going to talk about what the gospel of Paul was... what he actually believed.

In last week's message I spoke on **1Corinthians 15:1** and we saw that the Gospel was, and this is what I emphasized from Thayer's and also Strong's, that the Gospel is the Good News of the Kingdom. When it talks about the Gospel, Paul is referring to something that he has in mind which is not just Good News but it is Good News of the rulership of God, through Christ, in the earth.

The word, Gospel, according to Paul, was not the message of how you can go to heaven. But, the Gospel that Paul talked about was the Good News that death and whatever effect death would have in the earth, has been conquered by God in the man, Jesus Christ. And that this Jesus has now been given dominion and rule and that everything should be put under His feet. That means that the rulership that He has and what He has attained in His resurrection and what God has attained through raising Jesus from the dead, that the effect of that would flood the earth. That is the Gospel that Paul had in mind --- the Good News that even bodily death is conquered. In other words, sin and death is conquered and that we are now under a new man, the Resurrected Christ, and not the dying man which was introduced in Adam. We are under the new man, the immortal man, Jesus, and that He has His effect on our lives.

I would advise you to go and listen to last week's message again. Just go to 1Corinthians 15 Part 1. Today's message is now Part 2. We are going to have many parts explaining what Paul said here. Now, Paul connected the Gospel of His Kingdom with the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Today we are going to talk about how important it is to believe this truth. We are going to touch on a very complex matter, the matter of salvation: How does salvation work? Basically, who is saved? Can you lose your salvation, etc.

### **1Corinthians 15:**

*1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand;*

*2 By which also you are saved, **if** you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.*

Last week, we have seen that the word, receive, means to basically to take unto yourself or have yourself associated with a certain truth. That is how you receive something. It basically means to make it personal. So, when Jesus died, you can say, "That death is also my death. The Resurrection is also my resurrection."

We clearly see here that Paul says that you **have** received the Gospel. You **are** standing in the Gospel. I **have** preached it to you. You **have** believed upon it.

Then he comes in verse 2 and says something that is shocking to many of us and brings a lot of fear to us. He basically says that we are saved by this Gospel ***IF you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.***

The first part we are going to look at there is the part which says, ***By which also we are saved...***

***1Corinthians 15:2 By which also you are saved, by faith, if you keep in memory what I preached to you, unless you have believed in vain.***

By which we are saved through faith. We are saved by the Gospel, the resurrection of Jesus, as we have trust in it.

...By grace are we saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8)

... As many as believe shall be saved (John 3:16: The very words of Jesus recorded by John...) that those who believe shall not perish but have eternal life.

So, we see that belief is a very important aspect of salvation. We are not saved by our faith, by our persuasion. Our persuasion, or the power to be persuaded, or the human ability to be persuaded of something, is not what saves us. **The Gospel is what saves us.** What Paul is talking about is the resurrection of Jesus, the fact that Jesus is the Lord, and that He has the rule over sin and death. That is what saves us.

But it also says here that this works and manifests in those that believe upon this truth. That brings the thing in our lives where we so many times live with fear. Do I have enough faith? Do I believe strong enough? Is there enough faith in my heart? The moment you ask those questions you are already thinking that the amount of persuasion or how strongly or deeply you are persuaded of something, that salvation is in that.

No, salvation is not how deeply you are persuaded about something but actually in what you are persuaded of. So salvation is by the Gospel. This is what Paul is saying here. There is a deeper thing in this passage and I am going to explain it to you.

He says, ***By which also you are saved...*** We are saved by the Gospel. We are not saved by our works. We are saved by the announcement or by the truth which we can announce, which is that Jesus is raised from the dead **bodily** and that we can now also be saved from sin and death.

When we look at the word, saved, the word saved means to be kept safe or also, to deliver. So what it is saying is that God can save you or we are saved by the Gospel. We are kept safe from something else. There is something that wants to kill man. There is something that wants to destroy your life and we are kept safe from destruction or death by God as we are believing on Jesus Christ.

Now that might bring the question, “Why does God only protect the Believer? What is it with God? If He has the ability to protect all people why doesn't He just protect all people?” Why just the Believer? Why is He only having His protection over the Believer and not over all people? That's a big question that a lot of atheists have, a lot of people who turn away from Jesus Christ. The answer to that is what I am going to focus on today. We are going to talk about how faith, basically, works.

As a foundation, I want you to know that, to the Apostle Paul, believing this Truth is crucial!

He comes and is pointing out and says, “**1Corinthians 15:**

***I Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you*** (I have not changed the message), ***which also you have received*** (have already associated with it; you have already seen yourself as part of this; you are already standing in this), ***and wherein you stand;***

What he is actually trying to say to them is, “There is no need to change what you believe!” The context is, Paul preached to them and other believers or other preachers, Greek influence, the Sadducees and all those people, came and they would preach a message. Then the Believers would start to be deceived and believe something else. What Paul is actually saying is, “If you start to believe all these other things, it is going to ruin your life!”

He actually is going so far as to say that you could have believed in vain. That means that the first time that you believed, that would have no more effect on you. Christ would have an effect on you but as you change your belief you would now find that Christ has no more effect on you and that your life can be destroyed. That it would basically be as good as if you have never believed in Jesus. That is what Paul is saying here. I think you will also understand now why I am so focused on the message of the Resurrection that we believe it and that we continue to believe it.

Many of us, when we first believed in Jesus, we believed that He died and that He rose again and we call upon Him for salvation and that's where we started. We experienced great power from that although we didn't understand the depths of it in exactly what it means. But as we have believed in that and got involved in that and in reading the Bible without understanding and in different churches with different doctrines, we found that our belief was changed into a very legalistic law based message which we can testify. Many of us had been under the Law and then got into the Grace Message, we can testify that under the Law we were depressed. We had lives that was not good. We felt over burdened with all the practicalities of religion and we actually didn't have a life!

In my case, I had it so bad that I basically said that I was happier before I believed in the Lord than when I was believing in the Lord but believing wrong things about God, being under the Law. And this is what Paul is talking about.

As an introduction I want you to look back at your personal experience after you received the Lord. This is the testimony of many people. They became legalistic and they lost their lives. They had a life in the world and they believed upon the Lord and they were greatly empowered to a brand new life as they first believed upon the Lord. But, as their belief got into all the different church doctrines and teachings, which are not in line with the simple message of the Gospel, the very life you had was lost. The life you had was lost and there was no experience anymore of the life of God and the peace of God manifesting in your life. You were not kept safe from the very things that were harassing you prior to your salvation. That is then what many churches call to backslide or basically to fall back into where you had been. We are going to look at that today from the perspective of God's grace and the goodness of God.

So, Paul comes and he says, “I am declaring the Gospel to you again and it is not a message that has changed. It is something that you are familiar with. It is something that you have already accepted and believed upon. You have seen the fruit of it but I want you to continue in that message.” He then was going to preach the Gospel to them... “Because if you change from that message your life is going to be destroyed!” That sounds like, “I don't want that! It's all about my power to just believe the right thing!” This is actually very simple. All you need to believe is that Jesus died and that He rose again and what God has promised to bring forth in Jesus He will bring forth in your life and then you rest in that.

Don't add teachings of sowing and reaping, tithing and going to church to get a blessing, submitting to the leader to have an anointing, have 20 people lay hands on you to try to get another gift or resist, or have all these different add-ons! Don't have that! This is what happened to the people in Corinth and, this is my opinion, the message of the Sadducees came in which said that there is no resurrection. These people started to believe in Jesus but without the promise that there will be a bodily resurrection of themselves. Paul said that would be called, "falling away from the very Gospel" and that would leave you without the life of God.

We will go to Galatians 3:1-3; 10-12 and Galatians 5:1-6 and 15-25. This will really help you to understand what Paul said.

Before we get into these passages I'm going to tell you what they say. This is what Paul tried to say in the following passages. He is trying to say to people that God is not, basically, deciding who He is going to save if they believe or not. But, that salvation is something that God has given to all but, through faith we are using what God has given to all. So, it's not for God to decide who He will save. It is for man to partake in what God has already decided and given to all people.

### **Galatians 3:**

*1 O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ has been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*

*2 This only would I learn from you, Received you the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

*3 Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you are now made perfect by the flesh?*

*4 Have you suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.*

Paul is also talking about this vain thing. He says, "I don't want you to believe in vain." (1Cor. 15:2) Here he says, "If you begin in the Spirit and you want to end in the Law, then you would have believed in vain." He said, "If it was only in vain." What he means by that is, "If I was only wrong about what I believe, then you could have at least moved on to some truth but now you are busy with the truth and you moved away from the truth and what would that mean? That would mean that you are now under a power that is going to destroy your life.

### **Galatians 3:**

*10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

*11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live (have immortality) by faith (the faithfulness of God and we, also, being faithful to the fact that God said, "I am going to be faithful to you! You rest now!") So we must be faithful to the message of, God will be faithful to us and we don't have to be faithful to Him by the works of the law." I hope you hear what Paul is trying to communicate here. He says, **2 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that does them shall live by them.***

What is he basically saying? He says, "You started by believing in the Resurrection, the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. And by that Spirit, fruit was seen in your life. So, why do you now say, "I want perfection, or immortality, by the works of the Law? Can you not see that if you do that, meaning you start to believe something different now, that you will be under the curse.

Jesus did become a curse for us and He conquered sin and death. He now offers His rulership to all people so that people don't have to live by their works anymore. But, they can basically, simply, just live by relying on God. But, even if Jesus has died for you and was risen from the dead, if you refuse to believe that or believe something different, even if you have believed the truth, you will find that the life you live is connected to what you believe. That is why Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15, is so adamant in having the people believe the true Gospel. Next week we are going to go much more into what this Gospel is. This week I want us to see the importance of believing the right thing. This is what today's message is about. It's all about the importance of knowing that when you believe the correct thing, your life is shaped by the thing that you believe in. If you believe in a lie, your life would be shaped by the lie. If you believe in the truth, your life will be shaped by the truth not because God decides to shape your life when you believe but because of the dynamics of the human heart which we are going to get into today as well.

So, we find in Galatians 3 that he says to them, "You started in the Spirit. Do you now want to be made perfect in the flesh?" He says, "If you started in the Spirit and want to be made perfect in the flesh, you were even persecuted for the Gospel for no reason because you are losing the very thing you were standing for!"

You might differ from me and say, "Bertie, I don't agree with you. Do you want to tell me that we can, basically, lose the salvation that God has given to us, when we start to believe a lie?" You can answer that for yourself, experientially. When you believed in Jesus when you first got saved, were you very happy? (You answer.) Then when you started to believe the Law, did you lose that joy?

You were saved unto the joy of God. You were saved from bitterness and hatred. You were saved from so many things and you experienced salvation from it. But, when you started to believe in works righteousness and had a wrong belief, what happened to your life? You basically lost your life!

**Romans 7...**This is the experiential knowledge of the Apostle Paul

*1 Know ye not, brethren, (I speak to them that know the law), how that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?*

*2 For the woman which has an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he lives; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.*

*3 So then if, while her husband lives, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

*7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. No, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, You shalt not covet.*

*8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence (lust). For without the law sin was dead.*

*9 For I was alive without the law once* (Paul is talking about himself. He said, "Once, I was alive, without the Law once. What is he talking about? He is talking about what he is warning the people of Galatia against. He said, "You started in the Spirit. Now you want to be perfected by the works of the Law." He said, "Don't you know that those who are under the Law are under the curse? Now they want to go back to legalism and Law." What is he saying? He is saying, "You are going back to the cursed life by not remaining in Grace which is the message of the Resurrection. He says, "When I went back to the Law.... Once I was alive without the Law.): *but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*

So, what is Paul saying? He is saying, "I believed the truth. The truth brought life to me. But when I started to believe that I am justified by my own flesh, or by my own works, I found that the life I used to have, which was God's life in me, I parted from that life and I started to die." That is what he is saying. That is Paul's experiential knowledge. "I have experiential knowledge and I am very sure that even if you are not agreeing with what I am saying today, you have the same experiential knowledge where you believed in the truth, then you believed in the lie. As you believed in the lie, you found the fruit of the lie in your life. What Paul is basically saying is, "When you are not believing in the true Gospel, you are falling from the very influential power of eternal life on your life." That is what he is saying and that is why it is important to believe the Truth. That is why it is important for preachers, when you read the Bible, to study it and have an open heart from the perspective of, "God, I want to preach Your truth and I want to radically stay at the truth, which is the simple message of the Resurrection and that Jesus is Lord." It is the Gospel of the Kingdom which I spoke about in the last two Sundays."

**Galatians 5:**

**1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**

**2 Behold, I Paul say unto you** (Paul is talking to the Believer), **that if you be circumcised** (going back to the law), **Christ shall profit you nothing.**

So it's not that Christ is not there. It is what He is giving continually does not have an effect on you. We are going to look at this psychologically as well and read some definitions about medical beliefs from the psychologists website and explain to you how this works practically. But, what we see here is the fact is, the moment we believe the lie, the truth has no effect on us anymore. But it is the other way around as well. The moment you believe the truth, the lie has no effect on you. Amen!

**3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.**

**4 Christ is become of no effect to you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; you are fallen from grace** (the influence of God).

Can anyone fall from grace? Paul believed that. Last week I said that we have to be at a place where we at least know what the Apostle Paul believed.

**5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.** He says that we, through the very Spirit of God, the life of God, waits for what God has promised. We cannot, now, get out of our rest, go back into the Law, and don't believe the truth.

I do believe that Galatians 5 doesn't fully connect to 1Corinthians 15 in the fact that here He is talking about people seeking, basically what Christ has promised, by going back to the Law.

But, in 1Corinthians 15, they are basically going to something even worse which is they don't even believe in a bodily resurrection. They are not believing in the Kingdom of God upon the earth where the goal is not heaven or what Plutarch and these people believe but where the goal is Jesus manifesting His Kingdom. Where we are subjects of the Kingdom and under His rule where He rules with life in our lives, where He rules with goodness in our lives, where He rules with the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

## **Galatians 5:**

***16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

Now, this is very important:

***17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would*** (want). That is the same as in Romans 7.

***18 But if you be led of the Spirit, you are not under the law.***

***19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest,***

Now listen to this! What Paul is basically saying is this: Under trust in Christ, Christ rules with holiness in your life and He actually delivers you from what destroys you. I have seen that in the lives of so many people as they start to believe upon the Lord. We had a lady testify in our church yesterday who struggled with anorexia. She weighed about 81 pounds. She was at the brink of death. When she believed the Good News I don't want to say, "Just that second." There was a time as her heart was getting into the Good News, studying this, and over a period of time, one day, something happened! So, over a period of time, one day, something happened and she was set free. Glory to God!

She lived free from that problem. She got back to 125 pounds. She was looking good and everything was fine. That is what happens through the influential power of God by her testifying that she was not trying to eat right but simply believed that she is a new man and trusted in Christ. She had a trust in Christ where Christ has won her heart where she believed in the Resurrection. She was here in our Word School. She was listening to my teachings. I am not saying that it was me or Dynamic Love Ministries. I am just saying that when she started to believe in the message of the Resurrection, the brand new man, where Christ was raised from the dead, where He conquered bodily weakness, promised eternal life, we find, all of a sudden, that she is having the fruit of the Spirit in her life.

But, I can tell you that if she goes back to her old way of belief, you will find that she will start to struggle with an eating disorder again. You might say, "Well, didn't the Lord really set her free?" God really did set her free! He actually conquered her death, conquered her sin, conquered everything but what is happening should she believe what she believed when she was under that death, you will find that by what she believes, she is actually killing herself. It's not God killing her! She is killing herself. That is what is taking place. That is why it is so important to have the Gospel preached in its truth and believing it in its truth. That is why it is so, so, important!

Here we clearly see that Paul is basically saying that when you live in the flesh, what the flesh produces in your life, kills you! But, when you live at the place where you are simply believing in the Resurrection of Christ and what He has promised, and you don't try to manifest any of these promises but you simply say, "He rules over my problem!", you will find His rule over your problem... He is ruling over your problem.

I said this before and some people may be offended but I want to use this clearly. It's a controversial thing, but let's use homosexuality for an example. You might say to me, "Well, Bertie, you know people are homosexual. They are born that way and that is the way they are going to be forever." Let me tell you what I believe about this and what I believe the Scripture says about this. I believe that a person can be born a homosexual. It is possible. If you can be born with bad eyes, if you can be born without hearing, if you can be born with any physical shortcoming in your life, then you can also be born a homosexual. But, the truth is that Jesus Christ, the physical Christ, died and conquered all weaknesses in the flesh, was raised up and seated at the right hand of God.



As you believe that, although some don't even see it immediately, it doesn't matter. Just believe the truth.

Like for me, I am wearing glasses because I cannot see properly without them. I shouldn't drive without them. My eyesight isn't that bad but it is better to have the glasses. Would I say that that is right? No. Do I believe there is healing for it? Yes! How will this healing take place? If I could heal my own eyes, I would have but I can't. Not even the doctor can heal my eye. He can just give me a "medicine" but he cannot heal my eye. So does that mean that God has rejected me? No! All it means is that I, with the bad eyesight, have my belief in Christ and that He has promised me eternal life and even eyes that will never be able to see dimly, in the day of the Resurrection. I am going to do nothing by my own power to get what He has promised to manifest in my life. That is the same for homosexuality or any sin.

You might sit there a homosexual, addicted to pornography or whatever it is. I want to tell you what the Scripture says: As you believe truth, as you believe this, Christ will now rule over that. Sometimes we want to make it instant. But, it doesn't always work like that. You even find in the Church that they believe in the Lord and then things change. Then Paul came and explained more to them in order for other things to change. So it doesn't mean that you are lost if you see a sin in your life but Paul is saying things like, and this is what he mentioned:

***Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,***

***20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations...*** Those are all things that manifest in our lives in accordance to belief of works in the flesh and he wants us to believe the correct thing. It took many scriptures to make this point but this is the point I want to make: 1Corinthians 15:2 says that we are saved by the Gospel **IF** we keep in memory the Truth. He is basically saying that it doesn't mean that God will not save you. He is saying, "You shall be saved IF you believe this truth because if you don't believe this truth, you are destroying yourself. It is not that God doesn't want to save you. It is not that God is not there for you. It isn't that He has not given His Son. It's not that His Spirit is not there. We can see it this way: It is if you are drowning in the ocean and you get picked up by a chopper and you are in that helicopter, you shall be safe. In other words you are being taken to the land as long as you don't jump out of the helicopter. If you jump out of the helicopter, it is not the pilot that is killing you. It is not the pilot that is destroying you.

I want you to see how important belief is in our lives.

I want to refer to the Medical Belief through the ages.

(<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-20/edition-6/belief-and-illness>) It talks about belief and illness. It talks about the effect that belief has on a person's life in recovering from sickness or taking pills and so forth. If you read this whole article, it basically says, even if you take a tablet, the placebo effect is so big. The placebo effect is the effect of believing that you will be healed when you drink a tablet. It is so big that they have to trick people's belief to test the medicine because belief has such a powerful effect.

Let me read it now and then I'll give the conclusion.

This basically says: A critical feature of belief is the latent capacity to influence behaviour and cognition (how you think and reason) and govern the way people think and act. According to Dennett (1987), belief is to be considered as the inner causes that provide for describing and predicting a person's behaviour.

He is saying that what you believe will determine the outcome of how you live.

We are not saved by our belief. We are saved by the Gospel. The Gospel determines our outcome but even without the Gospel, just by your belief, it already determines your behavior. If you believe that there is a bomb in your house, it will determine your behavior. If you believe you have cancer, even if you don't have cancer, it will determine your behavior. You'll feel weak. You'll feel bad! You'll be depressed just because of your belief.

So, I want to say what the Apostle Paul is saying is that salvation is something that God gives. But, as you believe the truth, this truth saves you but there is also the effect of just believing the truth. If I believe that God has promised me an immortal body, then my life is going to change. I'm not going to try and get one myself.

I was talking to Helena earlier today. Let's make it very practical. Greenpeace and saving the planet... We go and say that we have to save the planet and we shouldn't eat meat anymore. We should only eat vegetables. Then we start to realize how the transportation of food is killing the world. Then we start to realize, "Oh, my goodness! We shouldn't transport. Now we should get factory trucks. Then we start to realize that the effect on the planet to make the batteries is even bigger. At the end of the day, all that we start to realize is that man cannot save nature and that we need God! The only solution that man had at the end of the day to save the world is to kill all people. We must just kill the human race and then the world will be saved.

Even if we do that, we make our calculations accurately, we are going to realize that this planet is not going to be saved that in a billion years from now the sun is going to explode and the whole planet is going to burn away anyway. At the end of the day, what we sit with is that man cannot save anything and that we need a Savior! The moment we realize the message of the Resurrection and that Christ promised us that, we will have a heart of saving something and I believe we will live less of a wasteful life. But, we will not try to find life by our works and try to make ourselves the savior of the planet and in the process live with the stress all the time.

This is very practical. I have a friend that tried to save the world and this nature by human actions on how to save on everything. Let us just recycle all the time. Do you know what? He got so depressed that it was difficult for him to live in this normal world. He couldn't drive anywhere without being depressed. He would always see a paper. Every car that drove past him would be an accusation. The more he tried and the more people that don't do it, the more discouraged he became. What happened was you find the fruit of the flesh... that hatred, bitterness, resentment, start to rise in his heart because of a simple belief. The belief was, "We need to rule over this planet instead of saying, "Christ has promised a brand new planet and the restoration of this very one into immortality. He also promised me an immortal body."

One my friend call me to his office and said, "I want to see you. You preached on this Resurrection and how God has promised even this earth to be renewed by Him and I was set free!" He is a brand new person! You can see it in his face, in his body. You can see how Christ has set him free. The point that I want to make through all of this is: Belief influences you. What you believe influences you as well as the fact that you simply believe something is very influential in your life. When Paul talks about believing in vain, he is actually saying, "As long as you believe the Good News, you will find this Good News shaping your life. But, if you turn away to another gospel, you will find that this Gospel has not changed. God's heart has not changed but you are now actually believing and having your life shaped by something else... and that is destructive!

You might ask, "So where is the Good News in all of this?" The Good News in all of this is it is not God deciding to kill you when you believe something wrong. It is not God deciding not to bless you when you believe something wrong. It is simply the dynamics of persuasion and the human heart as well as the whole system of what you believe in where you are now engaging flesh to have eternal life.

Let me end it off this way: We, from a dying body, which all of us have in the natural, want to preserve our bodies, what will we have? We will die! That's it. But, if we, who have dying bodies, are not trying to preserve our own bodies by the power of a dying body, but we are beholding an immortal body, seated at the right hand of God who has the know how on how to conquer sin and all death in all people and we rely upon on Him, what shall we have? We have been passed from death to life and we are not the old man which is dying anymore but the new man who is living. And we keep our minds in that truth. Glory to God! Amen!

So, it's not God deciding who He will save! It is you deciding if you are partaking of a God that saves everybody! Alleluia! That is how this works.

This is not a very nice topic to talk about and I think it would not even have been mentioned by the Apostle Paul if people just believed. It isn't even part of the Gospel. The fact that you can believe and if you believe you are saved or if you don't believe you are not saved--- that is not even part of the Gospel. But, it is something that is relevant and that we need to hear in the church today. It is so relevant that the Apostle Paul mentioned this and he clearly said in 1Corinthians that this Gospel works as you are persuaded of this truth. Amen

### **1Corinthians 15:**

***1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel*** (the good news that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead and He is now the ruler of the earth) ***which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand;***

***2 By which also you are saved*** (Look at the Good News... you are not saved by your works. You are saved by the fact that Jesus is the Lord), ***if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.***

Remember 1Corinthians, after Galatians 3, he says that if you go back to the law, not believing in this truth, you believe in vain. And the grace of God, you are not under the influential power of God. Grace is not God deciding to be gracious to you. He has always decided to be gracious to you, merciful, towards you but you are not under that influence any more. If I don't believe in my wife anymore, then I am not under her influence anymore, although she wants to influence me.

I've seen it with people going through divorce. The man doesn't believe in his wife although she is such a good wife loving him! He doesn't believe in her. He believes lies about himself and he doesn't believe what she is telling him. As he doesn't believe in that, although she loves him with all her heart, his heart is not under her influence but under the influence of what his friends and others say. And that's how it works with the Gospel! That's what I want to tell you today. Go and think about this. Go and pray about it. Scripture is full of this. Paul wants the church to continue to believe the Gospel. That is why he wrote all the letters so that they would continue in the simple Gospel. Amen

So, I want to encourage you: You are saved by the Gospel. Just keep in memory that Jesus was raised from the dead and that His resurrection, through that, He rules over your sin and death and you just trust Him. That is it! And keep believing that and don't add anything! Amen!

Father, I want to thank You so much that I can pray for people today. Thank You, Father, that You have come to share with us the importance of continuing in this truth. Thank You that our hearts are geared towards the truth and continuing to believe that. Thank You for Your love, oh God, in Jesus' mighty name! Amen and amen

Thank you so much for letting me serve you today. God bless.