

The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians **God Himself Will Provide For Himself the Lamb**

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1. What is the Gospel? A Description.

The gospel is the powerful message of the Triune God's salvation for sinful men, who only deserve His condemnation (Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 6:23), and which is found by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone for everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16).

2. What is the Gospel? A Short Statement.

Jesus Christ, God Himself, came to save sinners, and I am a sinner (1 Tim. 1:14). Jesus died on the cross taking the punishment for man's sins (1 Cor. 15:3) and rose again from the grave (1 Cor. 15:4) so that anyone could be forgiven (Col. 1:14) and made righteous before God (2 Cor. 5:21). To receive salvation from God, you must repent of your sin and believe in Jesus (Mark 1:15; John 3:16). Anyone who fully trusts in Jesus alone will be saved (Rom. 10:9-10; Eph 2:8-9).

3. What is the Gospel? A Longer Statement.

For the gospel to make sense, men must be told of the reality and of the reasonableness of God's severe judgment on men because of sin (cf. Rom. 2:16). God created man without sin and placed him in a world of paradise until Adam disobeyed God and sinned against Him (Gen. 1-2; 3:6). Since that time, all of man's natural thoughts and actions are opposed to God and cannot please Him (Gen 6:5; Ps. 14:2-3; Isa. 64:6; Matt 5:20; 48). Every sin which man does is against God (Ps. 51:4). God cannot abide with sin (1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 1:5), and He is right and just to punish sinners for their wickedness (cf. Gen 18:25; Ps. 51:4). The just punishment of God for sinful men is eternal conscious torment away from His good presence and in a lake of fire (Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 21:8).

The good news of the gospel is that God the Father sent God the Son into the world to take on flesh and the nature of men (John 1:1-3, 14; Phil 2:7; 1 John 4:14; Heb. 4:15). He did this so that He could live the life of men while having known no sin (Heb. 4:15) but while fulfilling all of the righteous requirements of God (Matt. 3:15) so that He could voluntarily bear the wrath of God and die in the place of sinners (Gen. 22:8; Isa. 53:10-11; John 10:14; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21). Then on the third day following His death, Jesus rose from the grave confirming all that He said was true (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33; cf. Deut 18:15ff; Jer. 28:9), declaring Him as the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4), and verifying that God had accepted His sacrifice (Heb. 10:11-14).

Anyone who hears this good news of God's salvation for men and believes is saved (John 3:16; 6:40; Acts 2:21; Rom. 1:16; 10:9-10). Saving faith is a gracious gift of God (Phil 1:29) where the individual trusts in Christ alone for salvation. Saving faith is that which agrees with God that sin permeates and effects the sinner's entire being (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:23), confesses that by virtue of his own personal sinfulness he stands absolutely guilty before God (Rom. 6:23), relies upon a salvation granted upon God's grace alone, without even a partial contribution of the sinner's own goodness (Eph. 2:8-9), because of the righteousness of the Person and work of Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Rom. 4:4-5; 5:17-19).