

## *What We Believe and Take a Stand On*

### *1 Corinthians 15:1-8*

*“Has the gospel got a hold of you, or is this this thing just theory to you? I tell you, unless in our life there has been a recognition of sin, which has brought you on your face before Jesus Christ, you are not saved! Until there has come a moment in your experience when God has shown you that sin is not only being immoral or impure, but basically it is self in all its ugliness, you know nothing of salvation.*

*If you can say, ‘Yes, I have come to recognize sin to be what God says it is,’ then has there been a revolution of character? Has Jesus Christ, your indwelling Lord, begun to form Himself in you? If there has been a revolution of character and manner of life, then has there been a redirection of your energy? If there have not been these three things, then have you believed in vain?”*  
*Redpath*

- I. The foundation of the resurrection of our physical bodies at the rapture, which will take place when Jesus calls us up to be with Him, is belief in the gospel. Evidence of the gospel having taken root in the heart of a believer is seen by a changed life. A changed life, i.e., a life that obeys Christ’s commands, comes from a firm conviction of the importance of conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (Phil. 1:27).

John 20:11-18

1 Cor. 15:1-2

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**1 John 2:3-5** *3We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

- II. Belief in the gospel does not necessarily mean that it's from the heart. If the truth of the gospel is not something that someone is willing to take a stand on, and if it is something that is held onto very loosely through immorality, idol worship and loving the world, then that person's profession of faith shows no evidence of having come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 15:2

1 Peter 1:3-5

Romans 10:9-10

Matt. 13:1-3

Matt. 13:24-30

Matt. 13:47-50

Matt. 7:24-27

Matt 7:13-16

***Philippians 3:12-14*** *12Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

- III. Belief in the gospel is the only means of being saved from the wages of sin, which is death (Rom. 6:23). There is no other possible way to enter God's heaven. Belief in the gospel is believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and what he did by sacrificing himself on the cross for our sins. It is believing on the reality of his death as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is believing that he died a physical death and was buried. And it is believing that he rose from the dead with a glorified body victorious over sin and death. God honors true heartfelt belief in the gospel by giving that person, no matter how they've lived, the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor. 15:3-11

Rom. 10:12-13

Heb. 7:27

Luke 24:46

***Romans 10:12-13*** *12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*