

1Corinthians 18-11-04a

Good morning. Welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. It is the 4th of November 2018 Those numbers for date become increasingly meaningless to me the further they go.

I can't Picture myself this far in the future. I Keep thinking I'm somewhere in the late 80s early 90s And here we are Ever closer to the return of the Lord Jesus, which I think is coming pretty quick Pretty quickly if you're an English major But we will continue this morning our study in 1st Corinthians we start a new chapter chapter 15 we have exhaustively examined the issues of Spiritual gifts in the church good order of worship and What we drew from that primarily is the importance of recognizing God's order God's structure God's assigned authority Which is not based necessarily on merit or worth or Quality it is an assignment the Levites were no better. No worse in terms of their individual capabilities or righteousness than any other Israelites they were simply assigned the function of priests and What an honor with that assignment came a lack of physical inheritance They did not have a tribal portion of land assigned to them their heritage was the Lord and they prefigure our privilege as Believer priests in this age with the Lord Jesus as our high priest rather than the Aaronic priesthood we have a priesthood that is symbolized Metaphorically speaking by Melchizedek and the Lord Jesus as our high priest and as priests we don't look for an earthly inheritance We don't look for success and Some human standard of achievement that is necessarily visible in this life We like the Levites have a heritage that is intangible it is ineffable it is Raised above the mundane and the earthly and the transient Well Paul is going to address that now directly having talked about the function in the church that pertains to Who does what and how gifts are exercised of what the role of various gifts is whether it is prophet or teacher or One speaking in tongues or one interpreting whether one is male or one is female.

He's ironed all of that out Because this is their testimony. This is their witness. This is what is seen in the world and even as we fasten upon Invisible truths and spiritual realities.

We don't neglect our function on earth You remember the essence of the gift of tongues, which was a supernatural manifestation of the presence of the Holy Spirit but the purpose of it is what a witness to those who are outside and whatever God does in us and through us is often a witness to those who are outside and Just Because we are heavenly minded. We don't become no earthly good so He is going to launch from that point now as we begin this next chapter and talk about some wonderful truths that bridge the gap between the physical and the spiritual that connect Heaven and earth as the Lord Jesus himself does In his role as mediator He is the one that bridges that gap so we're going to take a moment to go to the Lord in prayer and then we will start this very interesting and challenging and wonderful Chapter in terms of its assurance and its doctrinal content But let's go to the Lord in prayer Father we are grateful. What an exciting time to live What an exciting place in your plan for us to occupy To have been born and to live in the age

where as we come to faith We are baptized into the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are united not by Necessarily by physical descent or by ancestry. We are united by our common brotherhood in the Lord Jesus as Those who have been given as a gift to him as a special and unique group we thank you for the opportunity to Explore the potential that all of these wonderful Standings and gifts offers to us and we pray that as we look at this portion of your word together this morning that God the Holy Spirit will make it real and Motivating and an encouragement to each one of us May it illuminate our path and help us to see clearly how we can live today and tomorrow and in the time that remains to us in this life as we anticipate the return of the Lord Jesus Christ the resurrection of our fellow believers and the wonderful age of opportunity that awaits as the Lord Jesus establishes his kingdom and We move toward the ultimate and final kingdom that belongs to you yourself We thank you for all of these things and ask your blessing on our worship and our fellowship this morning in Jesus name. Amen Turning our attention to 1st Corinthians chapter 15.

We don't I think need much of Review of the preceding chapter you'll remember we spent many weeks sorting what The early function of these temporary spiritual gifts was and how they are Nevertheless emblematic of things that we still do today God is still supernaturally involved in our lives We don't need in the same way That they were needed in the earliest days of this age. We don't need miracles miracles occur at the inception of A new part of God's plan to authenticate its messengers Moses was authenticated to Israel and to Egypt by signs and wonders the Apostles were authenticated the Lord Jesus was authenticated by signs and wonders once the Credentials of the messenger is established and the message is communicated those things Necessarily taper off. I don't need authentication as a pastor.

The Word of God has already been vetted as inspired and sourced in and from God and I have no need of healing or speaking in strange languages The Word of God carries its own authority and it doesn't need help from me But in the earliest days, how would you know if God were suddenly to start a new dispensation today? How would we know that it was him? Especially when you look at Israel with the age of the church hidden from prophetic gaze in the Old Testament if I was a godly Israelite I would Be somewhat skeptical that something that wasn't in my scriptures at least to my view was taking place prove to me that your messages from God proved to me that we are setting aside the law and the sacrifices and the Word of Moses by which we have lived for centuries. It has sustained us through prosperity and through adversity through Wonderful bounty in the land and through captivity and now you tell me that this is has been fulfilled and set aside and God is doing a new thing You need to give me something besides your notions. And what did God do? the Apostles Heal the sick raise the dead the Lord Jesus Still storms and feeds crowds and God marks his presence and his activity his order with his power and We continue in this most recent forward progress this most recent age the age of the church and so having discussed some of the Order issues that that began this age and that continue to define this age We now turn to chapter 15.

You can just review the last two verses of chapter 14 therefore brethren desire earnestly to prophesy to Communicate the Word of God We speak the truth to one another in love. We are able to Offer a word fitly spoken like apples of gold in pictures of silver the when with discernment with sensitivity Under the leading and prompting of God's Holy Spirit we continue whether formally or informally to prophesy to tell forth the Word of God and We do not forbid to speak in tongues there are still Miraculous things that take place and we are not to look askance or treat with skepticism things of this nature That's between the believer and the Lord. We have our hands full with our own Lives with our own opportunities with our own gift to be sure that we are Exercising self-control and sobriety as we live our own lives And if somebody says that they have had a miraculous healing if somebody else says that they have seen something Miraculous and especially in a foreign land or in a dark corner of the world where the gospel is has only recently been Shining its light Who am I to naysay and to make an issue and to say well God can't do that It's not really my business.

I have my periphery is Responsibility enough, and I do well to look to myself So we do not forbid When we see other people with other gifts Doing whatever it is that they do let all things be done decently and in order this is a timeless Exhortation decently and in good order God is not the God of confusion God is not the author of chaos God did not form the world Isaiah says to be Tohu and bohu he designed it to be orderly The first chapter of Genesis is all about order imposed on the earliest earth so chapter 15 Moreover brethren I Declare to you the gospel which I preached to you You would guess that this would be by way of review if he says I want you to know this and I already told you It's a review right There's a time-honored Tradition of review in God's Word preach it then you preach it again Moreover brethren I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you which also you received and in which you stand By which also you are saved if you hold fast that word which I preached to you Unless you believed in vain Sounds like Salvation based on perseverance, doesn't it? You're saved if you hold fast Well that guy over there didn't hold fast Maybe he's not saved. We'll have to see This is the face value What Paul is saying or not Verse three for I delivered to you first of all that which I also received That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures and That he was seen by Cephas then by the twelve after that He was seen by over 500 brethren at once of whom the greater part remained to the present But some have fallen asleep After that, he was seen by James then by all the Apostles Then last of all he was seen by me also as by one born out of due time For I am the least of the Apostles who am not worthy to be called an Apostle because I persecuted the Church of God but by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace toward me was not in vain But I labored more abundantly than they all yet not I but the grace of God which was with me Therefore whether it was I or they so we preach and so you believed He's going to go on if you skim the rest of this Chapter and this is the longest chapter in 1st Corinthians. He's going to go on to detail the resurrection from the dead the resurrection of Christ and by extension the resurrection of those who are in Christ who belong to Christ but We've we'll take a look at this first section the first 11 verses of 1st Corinthians chapter

15 and he begins saying Moreover brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you Now he has been addressing moral problems in the church divisions in the church Ethical problems taking each other to court before unbelievers Issues of order and propriety in their gatherings in their worship service And so now he's moving to something that is more strictly doctrinal something foundational something Definitional of definitional about Christian faith.

And so there's a change in direction here Normally when you look at Paul's letters such as Ephesians, he begins with the doctrines Remember that wonderful Menorah the sevenfold truths that he communicates in Ephesians chapter 1 and in chapter 2 and in chapter 3 and then in chapter 4 he gives his exhortations to the worthy walk and to the practical Application of those things so you teach the doctrine then you give its application and its pertinence and how it how should we then live? Here we although it has been sprinkled with truths. He has begun with a lot of practical analysis and practical Rebuke, if you will and correction and instruction in righteousness now, he's moving into something that's more doctrinal First Corinthians chapter 15 is the most extensive Discussion of resurrection in the Bible Nowhere, is it more detailed more nowhere? Is it more fulsomely taught than here? This is the mountain peak of resurrection in the Bible if you want to know about resurrection This is your chapter much as two chapters ago if you want to understand love Biblical love that's where you go so It is a Change of direction in the letter. There's sort of a major breaker.

You could imagine that maybe if it was on Pages there might have been four or five pages and now we're starting a new page and maybe it's the the second half of the letter almost but also It is a review he says I'm Bringing to your mind he basically it begins he says When he says I declare to you, this is I would have you know, it's from its Norito, you know Gnosis gnosis is the noun from the verb Norizo g n o r i z o I would have you know And so he says I preach this to you, but it doesn't seem to be circulating as present knowledge in your minds if you ever Heard a thing but then you kind of forgot it and then it comes back to you later And you say oh, well, I knew that what what was I thinking? I don't know why I did this because I I knew better But it just wasn't a part of my circulating knowledge. Paul says you need to get this view this understanding this definitional Substantial foundational piece of the Christian faith Circulating in your mind. I want you to get this back up in your working knowledge in your tool set that you use day-by-day I would have you know Because this is not the first time of course, he preached in Corinth, but this doctrine goes all the way back it is He's in the 50s ad here.

This letter is thought to have been written about 55 ad Well, the Lord Jesus was raised circa 30 ad 29 to 33 somewhere in there depending on your on your Calendar for the first part of the first century, but On the day of Pentecost What is one of the major subject? Issues that comes up you look back in Acts. We were looking at this in connection with our Psalm 16 study You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption you will not leave me you don't abandon me and show Where did we go for the New Testament quote keep your finger here and turn back to Acts chapter 2 Always is Exciting to me when our studies seem to cross and Mutually support each

other Acts chapter 2 Look down at verse 24 Beginning in 22, this is Peter preaching men of Israel Jesus of Nazareth man attested by God to you how By miracles wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst as you yourselves also know Change of dispensation, how do we know something new is happening and it is from God signs wonders and miracles Him delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God you've taken by lawless hands crucified put to death verse 24 whom God Raised up having loosed the pains of death because it was not possible that he should be held by it for David says concerning him Fill in our Thursday night study right the resurrection the first thing that gets preached on Pentecost is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ He was Authenticated to you by God you took him by lawless hands and killed him, but God raised him from the dead it's Essential it's central. It's fundamental so Throughout the book of Acts as you look at the gospel that is preached by the Apostles.

It is always about the Resurrection when I have time to turn to all of them just look at one more turn over to Acts chapter 17 We're looking at Acts 17 18 Verse 16 Paul waited at Athens his spirit was provoked within him when he saw the city was given over to idols you can look around in our culture today, and you can have your spirit provoked within you by the parallel situation where we have so many insubstantial and Ineffectual things that occupy people's mind and are the object of their faith city was given over to idols therefore He reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the worshippers notice Gentile is in italics, but it it's implied the Jews and the the God-fearers if you will and In the marketplace daily with those who happen to be there Now happened to be there is a lot like as many as were appointed unto eternal life believed They happen to be there because God arranged for those who were seeking to be in a place where they could hear the word So Epicureans and Stoic philosophers encountered him and some said what does this babbler want to say and The Greek word is is always funny the word translated babbler there literally means seed picker What is this seed picker? Have to say others said he seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods Because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection now in Greek resurrection is the word Anastasis and You get Anastasia from this remember the Russian daughter of the czar Anastasia. They thought maybe she survived the Attack on the on their family and that she'd lived old age somewhere and it's all mythology But you know people love love a romantic story Anastasia comes from Anastasis Anastasis is the word for resurrection. Well, it was such a foreign concept to the Greeks The Hebrews the the Jews the Israelites understood coming back from the dead but in Greek philosophy, they had no notion of Resurrection and Being reunited in your body and soul so they thought when when they overheard some of this preaching that there was a Jesus and Anastasis and that there were two new gods that were they supposed to be added to the pantheon Oh, I see said what are they husband and wife? Are you you know, they're gonna have a little offspring and Jesus and Anastasis and that's why it says God's plural because they they thought Anastasis are we supposed to worship her and and worship him and but they're preaching the resurrection.

It's central. So Paul stands up and and you can read The rest of his address at the Areopagus there But Paul just looked down at verse 31 He has appointed a day on which God will judge the

world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained he has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead the assurance that God exists that he is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek him that he will be the judge of all men is the resurrection. It's central Central to the gospel you can see this throughout the scripture.

So back in Corinthians moreover brethren I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you Which also you received and in which you stand by which also you are saved so as a result of the preaching There are three results First of all, and these are this is Aris tense He says the gospel which I preached That's Aris when he first encountered the Corinthians, you know Aris we think of it as sort of a past tense it's completed action And when you're talking about something that isn't happening today, it's completed action in pastime So I preached this you on Galilean this evangel this gospel which you received Aris active indicative from para Lombano you received alongside and It's Para on top of Lombano Lombano is to receive para alongside parallel two lines beside each other that that follow the same direction is To take to yourself and put in front of yourself for consideration It doesn't necessarily mean that he doesn't say in which you trusted yet. He says you received it You didn't reject it. You didn't push it away.

You received it alongside you brought it on board This is unrejection if you will you received it in which you stand This is a perfect active indicative in which you Have stood in which you were stood up and continue to stand Completed action in pastime with results that continue to the present. It's a perfect tense I have finished my assignment have finished is is perfect. It's done and the assignment remains finished It doesn't become unfinished later on so the perfect tense here is important because you received it alongside and He doesn't say you continue to receive it.

It's not perfect. It's not present. It's you received it at a point and you Suddenly started standing and you continue to stand in that gospel Begun in the past continues to the present and Really if it was me, I don't think I'd put a verse break here at verse 2, but then it says through which So you received it you stand in it and through it also you are so zo s o z o But this is a present passive indicative present tense Look at the progression you received it in the past heiress you were stood up and continue to stand in it perfect that action began in pastime and continues to the present and Through which you are being present tense passive voice you are being saved saved is a is a Resonant word in English because we think there are the saved and the unsaved is saved and the lost Saved you're going to heaven the lost you're going to hell But so zo didn't have that Common narrow definition in Greek it means delivered rescued out of Taken out of a bad circumstance and put into a better one.

So zo just meant to to deliver out to Better the circumstances of someone through which also you are being saved So the the way we handle this in English is we say there are two ways to look at salvation Salvation occurs once for all at a point in time once saved always safe always saved. But then there is also a Process of salvation. This is this is what they teach in seminary, you know, there's a good seminary there's a point in time where you're saved and then and that's

that's Positional then you have experiential salvation.

You have the ongoing process of putting off the old man putting on the new man work out your own salvation with fear and trembling is the the experiential side you got to live out your salvation you've You know, you've been signed up and made a marine now You've got to get the training put on the uniform go do the mission become increasingly more and more a marine, right? It's you are one on paper, but you become one through a process and that's that's the notion and that's that's Good enough for us. So through whom you are being saved. This is the process Now Does everybody Persevere are we all? Fifth point Calvinists Perseverance of the Saints if you're truly saved you're heading on the upward way You're just riding the trolley up a hill in San Francisco and it's going to take you, you know hands off.

I'm just On the train for the ride. That's perseverance of the Saints You don't have to do anything if God didn't predestined me to be motivated today The trolley is going to take me up the hill anyway, because perseverance of the Saints I'm just an empty vessel waiting to be filled by some motivation and You know if God wants me to feel convicted I'll feel convicted if he wants me to feel like I need to go do a ministry He'll you know, God is at work in me to willing to do for his good pleasure. So if he's at work I'll just wait for the work.

It's very it tends to and most Calvinists don't actually live this way in practice But the statement of the theological understanding Inevitably Somewhere in the dark corners of your heart says well, you know if I didn't try very hard today, it's okay You know God's really the one working and willing and maybe he didn't want me to be faithful today I don't know. I just but it we are relieved of responsibility if it's all up to the sovereignty of God well Through which you are being saved and in your Bible It says if you hold fast the word which I preached Unless you believed in vain The word order in Greek is different and I'm not gonna inflict huge amounts of Greek on you But the word order here is important Let me let me give you the flow of ideas here in Greek for verse 2 through which you are being saved That word which I preached to you if you hold fast except unless To no purpose you believed I'm reading that straight out of the na-27 here. I'm translating it straight out.

I'm not reading it, but Looking at the Greek here D UK I so zest a through which also you are being saved teeny ligo a you angeli salmon that word which I preached to you whom in a if Kodak a if you hold fast and Kodak a here is a present active indicative if you are holding fast. It's another present tense unless Except you believed to no purpose so are you having the experiential growth and Fulfillment working out living out your salvation or not Well, are you holding fast to that word that was preached now, here's what's interesting Don't don't let me lose you at this point because this is what he's saying in these first two verses If your salvation is Ongoing in the sense of the process of really becoming everything God wants us to be in this life It won't happen if we're and we're not going to stand we're not going to We're not holding fast we are we're going to stand in the sense of ultimate salvation That's perfect tense. You've been

stood up and you can't be unstood.

You've been born and you can't be unborn You've been adopted and you can't be unadopted I was editing a Criswell sermon a few days ago and dr. Criswell Was talking about the fact that in a lot of places there is a law pertaining to adoption and a Guy writing his will say you've got a prosperous man and he's got a natural son and an adopted son There is law in in places that says He can't disavow the adopted son when he's Distributing the inheritance you can actually disavow a biological child, but not an adopted child because They're trying to protect that the sanctity of that adoption it is treated as Something so valued that they don't want the guy to undo it and say well He was just kind of a hanger on and now I've cut him adrift and they and legally Adopted children are not allowed to be disavowed Later on in in a will for example, and there's a sense in which once God Births us by the Holy Spirit once we are added to the body of Christ The body of Christ does not lose parts Finger doesn't fall off ear doesn't say I don't want circulation. I'm just going to turn black and fall off your body of Christ and Your malfunction can cause pain to the rest of the body but You don't enter into life maimed you you don't you know if that I offends the you pluck it out the Lord Jesus Doesn't pluck out his eye.

He doesn't cut off his hand the body of Christ is not going into the future partial now there are Some of us who are unfaithful and those are the ones that are going to be Covered not going to be seen as it were your Many leagues from the New Jerusalem the waiting for the truck of leaves to drive out there a journey of many many hours, but what he says here is Through which you are being saved. In other words, you are Experiencing the grace of God and the faithfulness of God and the provision of God and the blessing of God in bearing fruit being useful training ourselves for the future if The gospel, which I preached you hold on to and you didn't believe it to no purpose That's the sense of it So what would this mean? Well, first of all, he emphasizes here when he says teeny Lago Logo a You Angeles Simon, that's what he said up in the first line. He said the gospel which I preached to you I want you to put back in your mind the gospel.

I preached to you at first Well, he's going to detail that gospel on down here. I delivered to you verse 3 first of all that which I also received when Paul was commissioned What is the first thing that Paul comes to understand about the Lord Jesus Christ? What's the very first thing? Do you think he's ever heard that there was a Messiah pretender that was crucified in Jerusalem. Of course he has he's persecuting all the people that believe in him He knows their belief system he knows who it is that is the object of their faith when when Saul The Pharisee is persecuting the church.

He knows their you know, know your enemy. He knows what they believe So what's the first thing Paul finds out when he becomes Paul the Apostle? What's the very first thing? Jesus is not dead On the Damascus Road, he doesn't meet an angel. He doesn't get a voice from heaven.

What does he get? The Living Resurrected Christ Right in his face the first piece of Church Age truth Paul gets is the raised Jesus Christ Is it nice to have or is it essential? It's the gospel. It's

intrinsic to the gospel in another place Paul says if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and Believe in your heart This is Romans 10 9 and 10 Actually, remember the address If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe something You are saved. What is that something? Remember the verse if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead Thou shalt be saved You confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus That's his status as the Son of God Jesus is the Son of God and Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead Don't believe in your heart that he died for your sins Don't believe in your heart that he fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures And what is the one central issue in Romans 10 9 and 10? You believe in your heart that the Son of God has been raised from the dead.

You're saved and that's The standing that's the perfect tense you are saved no matter what happens after that So it is central now. Here's the interesting thing as we get ready to go to our break here If you are going to continue to stand and continue to be saved in the process sense What gospel is it that Paul says you're holding on to be holy for I am holy Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together pray without ceasing rejoice evermore Flee youthful lusts resist the devil put on the armor of God What is it that ensures that you stand and that you continue to be saved? You believe the gospel Paul preached. What is that gospel that God raised Christ from the dead? How many how often do we actually think in the midst of our difficulties in the midst of our? Decision-making in our priority setting in our goal pursuit.

How often do we stop and say well, what about the resurrection? Jesus has been raised from the dead. How does that fit into this? It's not really I don't think in any of our minds that the go-to doctrine is it? Paul says if you're gonna stand and if you're going to live out your salvation in the process sense You've got to bring back to your mind the central aspect of the gospel that Christ is raised from the dead That's why this book with all of its exhortations and all of its instructions and all of its rebukes and corrections Spends more time on the resurrection than anything else This is why Paul in Acts when he goes up there to confront the Greeks and the philosophers when he goes to the synagogue the thing he preaches is that Jesus is the Son of God. We saw Acts 17 18 where he's talking to the Epicureans and the and the Stoics Acts chapter 9 verse 20 Immediately Paul preached the Christ in the synagogues that he is the Son of God Preached him in the synagogues that he's the Son of God That's the gospel Jesus is the Son of God and God has raised him from the dead that's what we need to keep in our minds How does it pertain? How does it play into daily decisions and establishing and pursuing our goals and maintaining good? godly priorities and Moving in the light of our hope and our faith and exercising our love Well, that's what the rest of this chapter is going to be about But we need to bring back to our minds that which we heard at the first and that which we believed and in which we Stand and by which we continue to be saved if we hold it fast It's the resurrection it's back from the dead Both the Lord Jesus and ourselves.

Well, let's pause here and take our break when we come back. We're going to see how Paul he

He tickles their curiosity with this question unless you believe to no purpose Now to no purpose doesn't mean believed in vain in the sense that you didn't really get saved He says unless your belief has no value doesn't accomplish anything. The only way our belief accomplishes something is if our Recognition and reception of the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ being the Son of God and raised from the dead It has a purpose and we know what that purpose is and we work that purpose day by day Well, let's pause here and take our break