



Of First Importance

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance ...”

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

“with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to ...”

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

1 Corinthians 15:7-10

“James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy 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. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, ...”

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”



1 Corinthians 15:10-11

“though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”

(ESV)

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”



The Testimony of the Church

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain” (1-2)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you.” (ESV)

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

1 Corinthians 6:11

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (ESV)



The Testimony of Scripture

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures”

(3-4)

Received (*paralambanō*) & delivered (*paradidōmi*)

Paul's terminology for "inspired apostolic teaching"

"For I delivered to you ... what I also received" (15:3)

"Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you" (11:2)

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you ..." (11:23)

"Hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter"

(2 Thess 2:15)

"OF FIRST IMPORTANCE"

Road to Emmaus

“And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:25-27, ESV)

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”



When Unbelieving Jews asked for a Sign

“But he answered them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 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.’”

(Matthew 12:39-40, ESV)

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

Pentecost

“For David ... foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.” (Acts 2:25, 31-32, ESV)

Paul before Agrippa

“To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.” (Acts 26:22-23, ESV)

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

Paul at Antioch

“And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.”

(Acts 13:28-31, ESV)

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”



The Testimony of Eyewitnesses

“He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive ... then he appeared to James” (5-7)

Witnesses

- **Cephas/Peter**



“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

Witnesses

- Cephas/Peter
- **The Twelve Apostles**

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

Witnesses

- Cephas/Peter
- The twelve Apostles
- **The five hundred at Christ's ascension**

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

Witnesses

- Cephas/Peter
- The twelve Apostles
- The five hundred at Christ's ascension
- **To James**

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

The Evidence

“The evidence for our Lord’s life and death and resurrection may be and often has been shown to be satisfactory. It is good according to the common rules for distinguishing good evidence from bad. Thousands and tens of thousands of persons have gone through it piece by piece as carefully as every judge summing up on an important case. I have myself done it many times over ... and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is better proved by fuller evidence than ... that Christ died and rose again from the dead.”

—Thomas Arnold, Oxford Attorney

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

The Evidence

“It is the most well-attested fact of ancient history”

—Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Professor of Harvard Law

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”



The Testimony of Paul

“Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God” (8-9)

PAUL'S CONVERSION

- Acts 9:1-9
- Acts 22:6-11
- Acts 26:12-18
- Galatians 1:15-16

“OF FIRST IMPORTANCE”

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”

(ESV)



Of First Importance

“That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (3-4)