1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Intro: 1 Cor. 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” Paul here speaks of the Gospel or good news that he had preached to the Corinthians. That Gospel is the death of Christ, His burial, and resurrection. Today, let us study the Gospel and how these facts apply to us.

I. Christ Death.
   A. The events leading up to Christ death:
      1. In the garden of Gethsemane:
         a. After the last supper and Christ institution of His Supper, they go to Gethsemane.
         b. He leaves His apostles but takes Peter, James, and John a little farther and tells them to watch with Him.
         c. He goes a little farther and prays, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt.”
         d. Peter, James, and John are found asleep, Jesus wakes them, and tells them to watch and pray. He goes and prays, returns, then goes and prays once again.
         e. The great multitude (probably around 500) led by Judas comes out; Judas betrays Christ by a kiss.
         f. Peter draws his sword to fight for Christ, cuts off the right ear of Malchus (a servant of the high priest). Christ tells Peter to put his sword up and heals Malchus’ ear.
         g. They lead Christ away.
      2. Christ underwent six trials.
         a. Annas.
            (1) John 18:13, 24 “And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.... 24Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.”
            (2) Annas had previously been High Priest. He was the father-in-law to the present High Priest.
            (3) Annas still had great influence and he seems to be responsible for the course of events.
            (4) Annas sent Christ bound to Caiphas.
         b. Caiaphas—present High Priest.
            (1) Here they came up with two false witnesses.
            (2) Caiaphas asked Jesus if he was the Son of God; to which Christ affirmed it.
            (3) They spit in His face, blindfolded Him, and hit Him with the palm of their hand and told Him to prophecy, “Who is he that smote thee?”
         c. The Sanhedrin.
            (1) Asked Jesus if He was the Son of God; He again affirmed that He was.
            (2) They sent Him to Pilate.
         d. Pilate.
            (1) Here Jesus affirms to Pilate that He is King of the Jews.
(2) Pilate told chief priest and the people that he found no fault in Him.
(3) Pilate did not want anything to do with Him so Pilate sent Him to Herod.

e. Herod.
(1) Jesus did not say one word to him.
(2) Herod and his men, mocked Christ, and arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate.

f. Pilate.
(1) Pilate tells people that he finds no fault in Christ, but because of the people he would not let Him go.
(2) He tries to satisfy the people by having Christ scourged.
(3) He again tries to release Him, as was the custom at the feast, but the Jews asked for Barabbas instead.
(4) He takes a basin of water and tries to wash his hands of it.

3. After the trials:
   a. Soldiers lead Him away.
      (1) The placed a crown of thorns upon His head—the thorns were about 4 inches long.
      (2) They placed a scarlet robe upon Him.
      (3) They put a reed in His right hand.
      (4) They bowed down on their knees and worshiped Him, mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews.”
      (5) They took the reed and smote Him on the head and spit upon Him.
   b. As was the custom they would have made Christ bear the cross; He apparently fell under the load so they compelled Simon of Cyrene to help Him.

B. His Death.
1. At Calvary:
   a. Golgotha.
   b. Place of the skull.
   c. He was crucified between two thieves.
2. Christ nailed to the cross.
   a. The nails were more like spikes.
   b. As they went in it would tear and pull the flesh.
3. Christ saying on the cross:
   a. “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”
   b. To one of the thieves: “Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.”
   c. To his mother and John: “Behold they Son, Behold thy mother.”
   d. “Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani” which means My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me.
   e. “I thirst.”
   f. “Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit.”
   g. “It is finished.”
4. Christ death was:
   a. Vicarious—taking the place of another
      (1) 2 Cor. 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made
           the righteousness of God in him.”
      (2) 1 Pet. 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might
           bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”
   b. Willingly; John 10:11, 17-18 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the
      sheep.... 17Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.
      18No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power
      to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

II. CHRIST BURIAL.
   A. In a new tomb, hewn out of solid rock, owned by Joseph of Arimathea.
      1. Not one had been buried there, so there were no bones to confuse someone.
      2. Huge rock rolled in from of it.
   B. Chief Priest and Pharisees set guards in front of the tomb.

III. CHRIST RESURRECTION.
   A. On the third day:
      1. He had taught His disciples this; Mat. 16:21 “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his
         disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and
         scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”
      2. He had told the Jews this:
         a. Mat. 12:39-40 “But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh
            after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40For as Jonas was
            three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights
            in the heart of the earth.”
         b. John 2:19 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it
            up.”
   B. Never to die again.
   C. Proof of His resurrection.
      1. 1 Cor. 15:5-8 “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6After that, he was seen of above five
         hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.
         7After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one
         born out of due time.”
      2. What happened to the body?
         a. Chief priest stole the body.
            (1) If they were planning this, they would not have the guards put at the door.
            (2) They would have produced the body on Pentecost.
            (3) They had no reason to steal it.
         b. Apostles stole it.
            (1) Needed motivation, which they did not have.
            (2) They would not have suffered the things they did nor been as bold as they were
                for what they knew was a fake.
c. Swoon theory: He did not die.
   (1) After scourging, the cross, Christ could not have lived three days without food and water.
   (2) When the soldier pierced Christ side, blood and water ran out (showed a ruptured heart and thus death).

3. Why weren’t the guards put to death as Roman law commanded?

D. What Christ Resurrection means:

1. If Christ was not raised; 1 Cor. 15:12-19 “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”
   a. Our preaching is vain.
   b. Your faith is vain.
   c. We are false witnesses of God.
   d. You are still in your sins.
   e. The dead are perished.
   f. We are most miserable.

2. Christ is raised; 1 Cor. 15:20-28 “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. 24Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”
   a. He is the firstfruits of the dead (assures us others will be raised).
   b. Christ is now king over His kingdom.
   c. He will reign until He:
      (1) Has abolished all rule, authority, and power.
      (2) Has put all enemies under His feet.
      (3) Has abolished death.
   d. He will come again.
      (1) At which time the dead shall be raised and given a spiritual, immortal body.
      (2) He will deliver up the kingdom to His Father.

IV. How Christ Death Burial And Resurrection Applies To Us.

A. Col. 2:12-13 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;”

B. Rom. 6:1-7 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus
Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

1. Baptized into Christ death.
2. Buried with Christ in baptism.
3. Raised to walk in newness of life.
4. How baptism is accomplished? Burial or immersion.

Conclusion: Have you applied it to yourself to receive the forgiveness of sins?