

WHAT ARE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH? 1 COR. 15:1-8

What is a fundamental? A fundamental is an essential, a basic, a constituent, an irreducible minimum, a sine qua non.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for **the faith which was once delivered unto the saints** (τῇ ἅπαξ παραδοθείσῃ τοῖς ἁγίοις πίστει).

Galatians 1:23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth **the faith** which once he destroyed.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from **the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, **and have omitted the weightier matters** of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

1 Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. **1 Corinthians 1:12** Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:13** Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? **1 Corinthians 1:14** I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; **1 Corinthians 1:15** Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. **1 Corinthians 1:16** And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ sent me not to baptize, **but to preach the gospel**: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for** it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Thoughts:

- Paul was sent **primarily** to preach the gospel
- The gospel is the power of God unto salvation
- Paul preached many other truths **in connection to** the gospel
- Those truths are also important **just not** essential
- The gospel is essential to salvation

So what are the fundamentals?

I. Trinity: unity, deity, equality, distinguishability

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ** died for our sins according to the scriptures;

Who is Christ?		
A man?	A good man?	A very good / godly man?
A god?	God manifest in the flesh – the God-man!	

Tertullian: “Doctrine of trinity must be divinely revealed, not humanly constructed, for it is so absurd from a human standpoint no one would have invented it!”

Thoughts:

1. There is only one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Tim. 2:5)

2. There are three who are called God

Father: 1 Cor. 8:6

Jesus / Son: Jn. 1:1; Jn. 8:22-24,58; Heb. 1:8,10

Holy Spirit: Acts 5:1-4

3. The options are limited:

- The Bible is confused / mixed up
- Deny one of the propositions

Mormons: deny there is only one God

Jehovah Witnesses: deny they are all called God

- **Hold both propositions and develop a doctrine that explains them – the Trinity**

II. The total depravity of man

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died **for our sins** according to the scriptures;

What condition is mankind in?

- **Born basically good?**
- **Born neutral / innocent ?**
- **Born with a sinful nature, under the curse, and with a bent to sinning?**

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is **none** righteous, **no, not one**:

Romans 3:23 For **all** have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is **not** a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**; **Ephesians 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked **according to** the course of this world, **according to** the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in **the children of disobedience**: **Ephesians 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others**.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is **not** subject to the law of God, **neither indeed can be**.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth **not** the things of the Spirit of God: for they are **foolishness** unto him: **neither can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

Total depravity means the whole man is impacted by the fall: mind, will, & emotions.

Sin has twisted our very nature – we are sinners both by both & by choice.

There is no need of Christ and the gospel apart from sin & the sinfulness of mankind!

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

III. The vicarious, substitutionary death of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures;

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just **for** the unjust, **that** he might bring us to God....

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse **for us**: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life **for** the sheep.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, **and to give his life a ransom for many**.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. **Romans 10:2** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. **Romans 10:3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **Philippians 3:8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, **Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

How do man and God get back together? How is the gap bridged?

IV. The literal, physical resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures: **1 Corinthians 15:5** And that he was **seen** of Cephas, then of the twelve: **1 Corinthians 15:6** After 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. **1 Corinthians 15:7** After that, he was **seen** of James; then of all the apostles. **1 Corinthians 15:8** And last of all he was **seen** of me also, as of one born out of due time (ἐκτρώματι).

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1 Corinthians 15:30 And **why** stand we in jeopardy every hour? **1 Corinthians 15:31** I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. **1 Corinthians 15:32** If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

1 Corinthians 15:20 **But now is Christ risen from the dead**, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

What is the gospel?

No news: just another religion with restricted morals but not hope!

Bad news: a legend for which men have suffered & died

Good news:

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall **not** all sleep, but we shall **all** be changed, **1 Corinthians 15:52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **1 Corinthians 15:53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **1 Corinthians 15:54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **1 Corinthians 15:55** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? **1 Corinthians 15:56** The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. **1 Corinthians 15:57** **But** thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:58** **Therefore**, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

V. Literal, physical second coming

1 Corinthians 15:20 **But now is Christ risen from the dead**, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. **1 Corinthians 15:21** For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **1 Corinthians 15:23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. **1 Corinthians 15:24** **Then 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.** **1 Corinthians 15:25** **For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.** **1 Corinthians 15:26** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. **1 Corinthians 15:27** For 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. **1 Corinthians 15:28** And 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.

Many doctrines are implied by this – heaven, hell, judgment.... We believe in more and not less!

A literal, physical second coming stresses:

- **A linear, teleological, providential view of history**
- **Life, time, and history will not continue**
- **Things as we know them will not continue**

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** **Romans 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **Revelation 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **Revelation 20:14** And death and hell were

cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **Revelation 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. **Matthew 12:36** But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof **in the day of judgment.** **Matthew 12:37** For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. **Daniel 12:2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **John 5:29** And shall come forth; **they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

VI. Justification by faith alone

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **1 Corinthians 15:2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have **believed** in vain.

Who is Christ / God? Who is man? How do God and man get back together? How do we know it's true? Why is it important? How do we partake of this great salvation?

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that **a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.**

Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? **Romans 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. **Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. **Romans 4:4** Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. **Romans 4:5** But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. **Romans 4:6** **Even as** David **also** describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, **Romans 4:7** Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. **Romans 4:8** Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is **not** justified by the works of the law, **but** by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and **not** by the works of the law: **for** by the works of the law shall **no** flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:6 **Even as** Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, **it is evident:** for, The just shall live by faith.

Justification by faith alone:			
Text:	When:	Who:	How:
Rom. 3:28	after the law	Paul & us	JBFA
Rom. 4:1-5	before the law	Abraham	JBFA
Rom. 4:6-8	during the law	David	JBFA
Gal. 2:16	after the law	Paul & us	JBFA
Gal. 3:6	before the law	Abraham	JBFA
Gal. 3:11	during the law	Habbakuk	JBFA

These are all clear, positive, didactic statements in two books of the Bible explaining & focusing on this subject!

VII. The inspiration of Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins **according to the scriptures;** **1 Corinthians 15:4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day **according to the scriptures:**