

# VETERAN'S DAY



# SERMONS IN THE SERIES SO FAR

- When bad things happen to good people *and they don't deserve them*
- When good things happen to bad people *and they don't deserve them*
- Today: an entirely different problem

WHEN GOOD PEOPLE

DO BAD THINGS

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

# 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

NIV '84

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

2 **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4 that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

5 **and that he appeared** to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,  
8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one  
abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even  
deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted  
the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

11 Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

# CENTRAL BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY

1. Christ died for our sins 15:3
2. He was buried 15:4
3. He was raised on the third day
4. Many people witnessed it 15:5-8



# POP QUIZ

*(SURPRISE!)*

1. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins
2. He was \_\_\_\_\_
3. He was \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day
4. Many \_\_\_\_\_ witnessed it

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOOD PEOPLE DO BAD THINGS?

- Consequences
- Law of the harvest

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

Galatians 6:7

# A TRUTH AT THE HEART OF HUMANITY

- There are no good people                      Rom. 3:10; Eccl. 7:20
- We only feel good when we compare ourselves
  - *How bad we could have been*
  - *How bad someone else is*
- Compared to the Holy God, we all fall far short

# PAUL ON "GOODNESS"

ROMANS 7:18-19

"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing."

# PAUL'S DARK SIDE

1 COR. 15:9

- Paul persecuted the church Acts 8:3; 9:1-2
  - In Jerusalem and Damascus
  - Men and women
- Paul never recovered from his shame
- It became essential to his understanding of Christianity

# PAUL'S TESTIMONY

1 TIM. 3:13-16

13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

## PAUL'S TESTIMONY (CONTINUED)

- 5 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—**of whom I am the worst.**
- 16 **But for that very reason I was shown mercy** so that in me, the worst of sinners, **Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example** for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

# HEAR PAUL SPEAK TO THE CORINTHIANS

- He was a “good person” doing bad things
- He was not worthy to be an apostle 15:9
- But there was grace
  - Jesus died for our sins 15:3
  - He was buried 15:4
  - He was raised on the third day
  - Many people witnessed it 15:5ff.



# THE GRACE OF GOD

- “By the grace of God I am what I am” 15:10
- Paul let grace have an effect
  - He worked hard
  - Even the work was grace

# LIFE LESSONS

- Are you a “good” person who does bad things?
  - Jesus died for your sins
  - He rose again
  - This living Christ offers grace
- Are you a “bad person” beyond God’s love?
- We are saved by grace
- We live our new lives by the same grace

# THE BIG IDEA

We are saved by grace

That same grace keeps enabling to  
work in his kingdom