

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Study Guide

The Powerful Truth of the Gospel

Ed Lutz
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Major Points

- 1 The gospel must be personally received and continually held fast — it is a lifeline, not a one-time decision**

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

- 2 The gospel is of first importance above every other concern in the Christian life**

1 Corinthians 15:3

- 3 The resurrection of Jesus Christ is confirmed by Old Testament prophecy and over 500 eyewitnesses, making it a historical reality, not wishful thinking**

1 Corinthians 15:4-8

- 4 Grace is not merely unmerited favor but the active power of God that empowers believers to live faithful, bold lives**

1 Corinthians 15:10

- 5 The transforming power of the gospel is demonstrated in Paul's radical conversion from persecutor to apostle**

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

Key Quotes

“The truth of the gospel transforms the lives of those who receive it.

at 3:13

“The gospel is not just something we hear and we receive. It's something we stand in. We hold fast to it. It isn't just a one-time decision but it's a lifelong trust. The gospel is the lifeline for the believer.

at 8:41

“The resurrection is not wishful thinking. It was confirmed by hundreds of witnesses who not only stake their lives on the veracity of it, but many of them died for it because they had seen the risen Christ. It's not a blind faith. It's a historical reality.

at 20:40

“Grace is the action, power, or influence, or force of God's disposition. It comes from him because that's who he is, which produces real practical outcomes in our lives.

at 23:45

“The measure of our life is not in its duration, but in its donation.

at 25:51

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Lutz said the gospel is not just a one-time decision but a lifelong trust. In what ways have you seen your relationship with the gospel deepen over time rather than remain static?
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2. Pastor Lutz described how Paul received the gospel directly from Jesus during three years in Arabia. How does knowing the source of Paul's teaching strengthen your confidence in the New Testament?
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3. Pastor Lutz emphasized that the resurrection is 'not wishful thinking' but a historical reality backed by over 500 eyewitnesses. How would you respond to someone who calls the resurrection a matter of blind faith?
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4. Pastor Lutz defined grace as not just unmerited favor but 'the action, power, or influence of God's disposition' that produces real outcomes. How does this expanded definition change the way you think about living by grace?
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5. Pastor Lutz challenged both older and younger generations to work together for gospel impact. What is one practical way your generation can encourage or serve the other in your church community?
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Word Studies

euangelion

Greek

Good news, glad tidings, the gospel. In the New Testament it refers specifically to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ — his death, burial, and resurrection. Paul uses this word to describe the content of his preaching and the foundation of the Corinthian believers' faith.

Usage: 76 times in NT

paradidomi

Greek

To hand over, deliver, entrust, pass on. In 1 Corinthians 15:3 Paul uses this word to describe the careful transmission of the gospel tradition he received and faithfully delivered to others. It carries the weight of formal, authoritative transmission of sacred teaching.

Usage: 119 times in NT

charis

Greek

Grace, favor, kindness, goodwill. In 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul uses charis three times to describe the transforming power of God that made him who he is, empowered his labor, and worked through him. It signifies not only God's unmerited favor but his active, enabling power in the believer's life.

Usage: 155 times in NT

Cross References

Romans 10:9-10

Paul writes that confessing Jesus as Lord and believing God raised him from the dead results in salvation — the same receive-and-stand pattern Pastor Lutz highlighted from 1 Corinthians 15:1-2.

2 Timothy 1:8-10

Paul urges Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel and describes grace as given before the ages began, reinforcing the sermon's teaching that grace is the power behind bold gospel proclamation.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Believers are called to run with endurance the race set before them, looking to Jesus — echoing Pastor Lutz's emphasis on holding fast to the gospel as a lifelong commitment, not a one-time event.

John 20:24-29

Thomas's encounter with the risen Jesus illustrates the theme of eyewitness evidence for the resurrection, with Jesus declaring a blessing on those who believe without having seen.

Philippians 3:4-11

Paul describes counting all his former credentials as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, paralleling his transformation from persecutor to apostle that Pastor Lutz emphasized.

Further Reading

- **The Resurrection of the Son of God**

by N.T. Wright

- **The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus**

by Gary R. Habermas and Michael R. Licona

- **What Is the Gospel?**

by Greg Gilbert

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Read Aloud	3:30	<i>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I...</i>
Ephesians 1:13-14	Referenced	6:12	
1 Peter 1:5	Referenced	6:42	
1 Peter 1:9	Referenced	7:01	
Matthew 7:21-23	Referenced	7:08	
1 John 2:19	Read Aloud	7:43	<i>They went out from us, but they were not of us; fo...</i>
Acts 18:1	Referenced	0:32	
Acts 8:1	Referenced	12:00	
Acts 9:1-19	Referenced	12:31	
Galatians 1:11-17	Read Aloud	13:18	<i>For I would have you know, brothers, that the gosp...</i>
Galatians 1:15-18	Read Aloud	13:55	<i>But when he who had set me apart before I was born...</i>
Psalms 16:10-11	Read Aloud	17:33	<i>For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let ...</i>
Psalms 22:1	Referenced	17:50	
Isaiah 53:1-12	Referenced	17:50	
Matthew 12:40	Referenced	16:16	
Luke 24:27	Referenced	16:38	
Acts 2:25-32	Referenced	17:13	
Acts 1:9-11	Referenced	19:57	
Titus 2:11-12	Read Aloud	24:20	<i>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvat...</i>
Romans 1:16	Read Aloud	24:54	<i>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the ...</i>
Ephesians 6:19-20	Read Aloud	25:13	<i>And also for me, that words may be given to me in ...</i>
Matthew 28:19-20	Read Aloud	27:10	<i>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ba...</i>