

BY HEART

When Scripture becomes second nature

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Page 1640

2 Peter 1:3-11 | Page 1733

REVIEW: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-5

1. The Gospel Principle:

“By this Gospel you are saved...”

“Preached...received...taken your stand...hold firmly...”

“Christ died for our sins...”

2. The Bible/Scripture Principle:

“According to the Scriptures”

SERMON'S 3 & 4 ON 1 CORINTHIANS 15

3. Gracious Striving: Through faith, grace produces a passion for godliness.

4. Resurrection hope: The Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of hope in God's supernatural power to bring about eternal life.

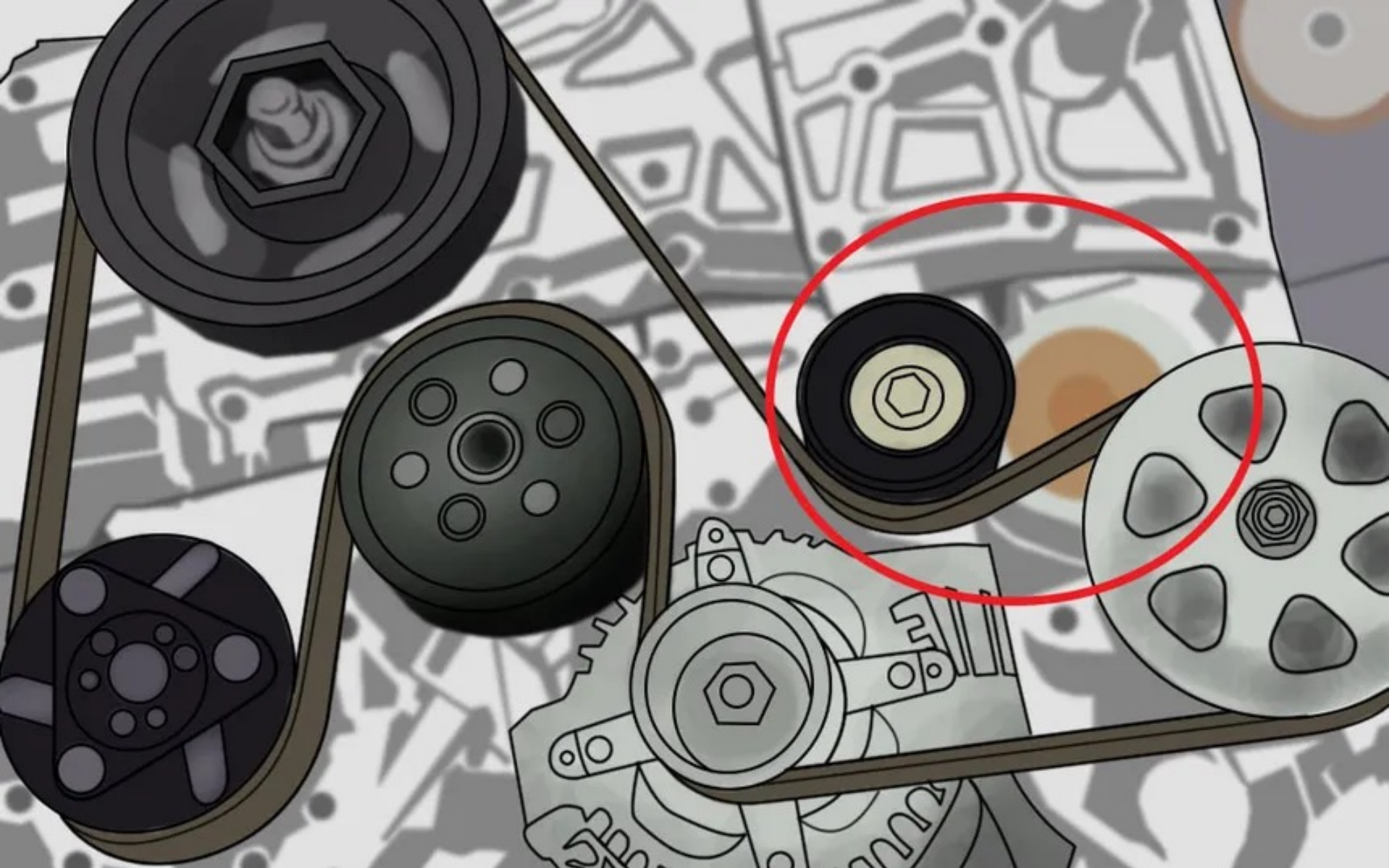
1 CORINTHIANS 15

3. Gracious Striving: Through faith, grace produces a passion for godliness.

A complex but necessary doctrine



The conflict should be one of *tension*



THE GRACIOUS GOSPEL

- The Gospel is **news** to be received
- Rooted in **Christ's work**, not ours
- It is by '**grace**'- free generosity of God
- It is '**salvation**'- something done to us and for us as passive recipients
- It is "apart from works"

NOT 'IN VAIN'

- The Gospel saves you IF you hold firmly to it.
- You can have "believed in vain"
- The Gospel can be 'without effect'
- "can such faith save him?...faith without works is dead" (James 2)

Can you be assured of salvation without works? Can you find motivation for godliness if faith doesn't produce works?

CONTEXT:

Not every profession of a belief is real faith.

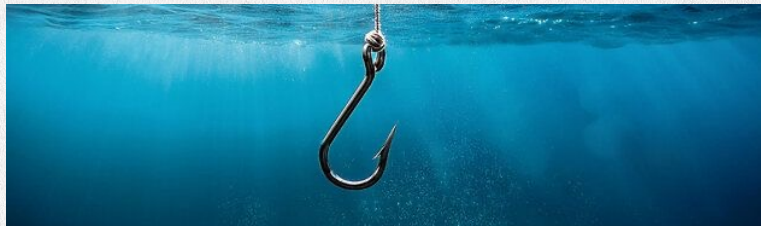
You can “receive” something, and even “believe it”, and that profession can turn out to be vain.

“Vain” means “to no effect” or “for nothing”
(see: Rom 13:4, Gal 3:4, 4:11, Col 2:18)

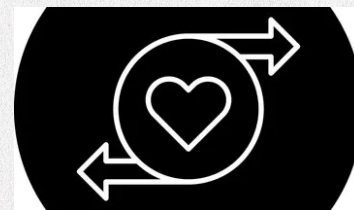
BY HEART

The most basic human hypocrisy:

I want to be let off the hook when I fail or harm someone. I don't want to suffer the consequences, and **I think I can be trusted** not to do it again.

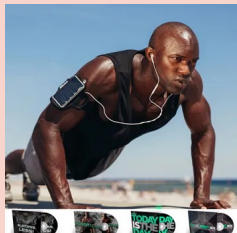


I don't want my suffering dismissed. I want what I've lost to be restored and for a malicious attacker to be punished.

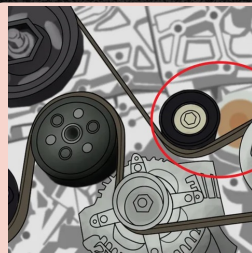


I should **at least be fully made whole**,
and **the perpetrator should be changed** by seriously grappling with what he did before he is “freed”.

THE GOOD NEWS:



Receiving grace through saving faith is the most powerful motivator to spiritual transformation.



Grace + Saving faith is the timing belt of real spiritual life and salvation



Change is a benefit of salvation, not a cost.
“I’ll have the lasagna, but only the pasta.”

EXAMPLES:

1 Corinthians 15:2 “in vain”

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 “see if you are in the faith”

Hebrews 6: “if you fall away...”

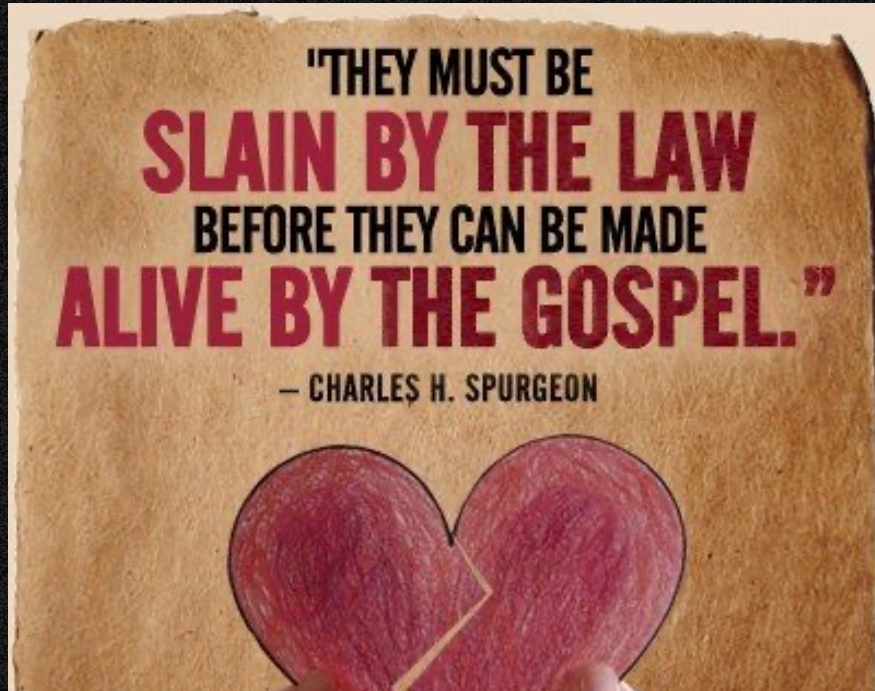
Matt 7:22-23 “I never knew you...”

All of these show examples of people that have made professions of faith that are in danger of not being saved.

So how does Grace through Faith motivate Change?

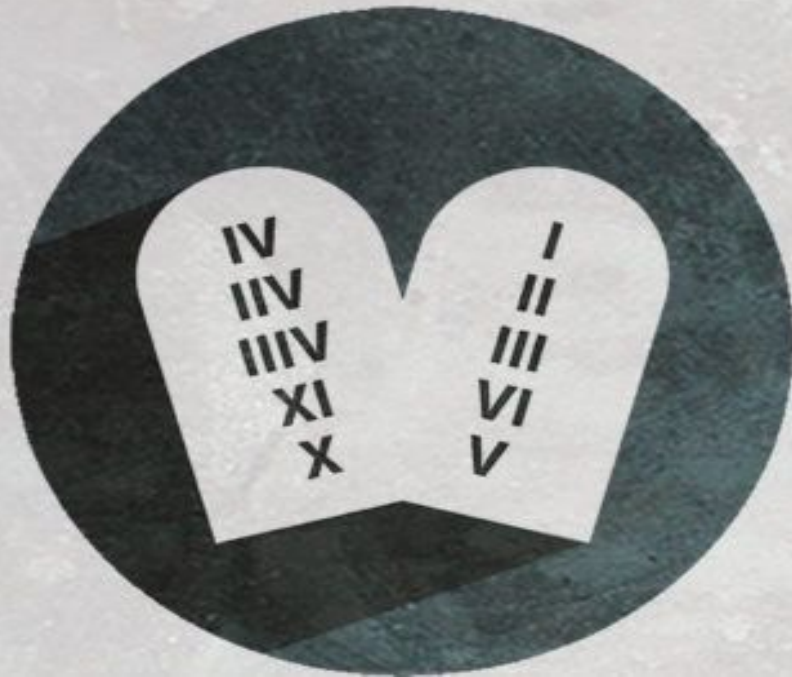
BY HEART

1. THE GOSPEL CONTAINS BOTH LAW AND GRACE



You believe in your
condemnation

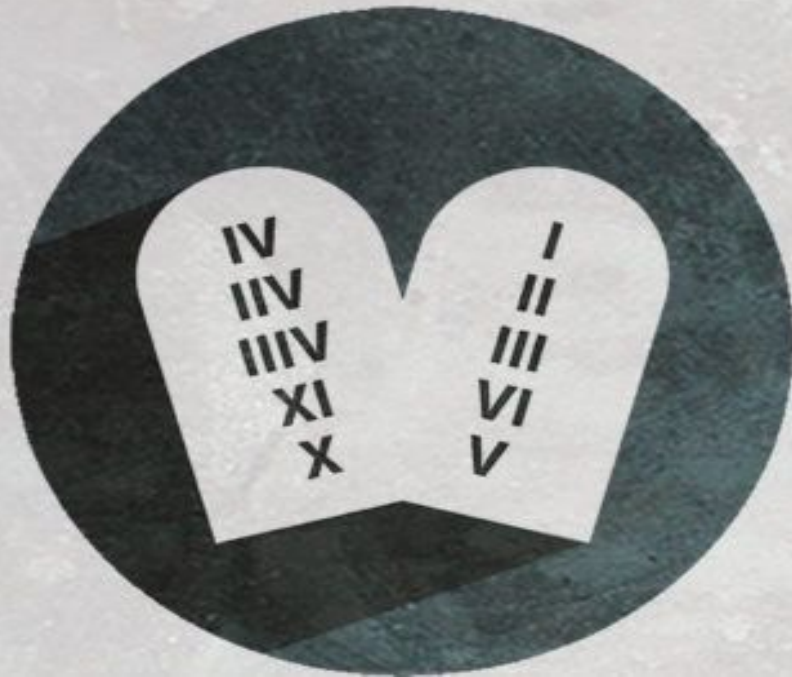
Biblical faith
requires iterations of
“reckoning” with sin



Acts 2:36

"...you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death..."³⁶

"Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."



See Romans 1-3: All substantiating the Law.

Trying to help us see our need for the Gospel and the mercy of God. To see that it is beautiful that Christ died for our sins.



Sola Fide (“faith alone”)

Means: Justification is received through faith alone, apart from the merits of works.

BY HEART



Sola Fide (“faith alone”)

Does not mean: Faith and works cannot have any necessary subsequent relationship to Justification.

BY HEART

2. GOSPEL FAITH PRODUCES MORAL GRAVITY



1 Corinthians 15:9-10

"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. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect."

1 Timothy 1:12-14

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 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. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 1:15-17

*"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 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. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

3. GOSPEL GRAVITY PRODUCES LONGING AND DILIGENCE



1 Corinthians 15:10

*"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.**"*

2 Peter 1:4-8

*“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, **so that through them you may participate in the divine nature** and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. **For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. **For if** you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Philippians 3:7-11

*“But whatever was to my profit **I now consider** loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, **I consider** everything a loss compared to **the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ** Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. **I want to know Christ** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

Romans 5:1-8

*"Therefore, **since we have been justified** through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God. **Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings**, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

APPLICATIONS:

1. Progress, not possession.

Whether or not we achieve virtue or godliness, faith in Jesus' grace makes pursuing it the passion of our lives.

1 Timothy 4:15-16

“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

APPLICATIONS:

**2. Saving grace can be present and working in the midst of scandalizing sin, failure, hypocrisy, weakness, infirmity, and stupidity.
Thank God.**

Figure this into your understanding of the church

APPLICATIONS:

3. Incredible godliness, virtue, healing, courage, beauty, nobility and more- is possible in Christ.

In the presence of humility.

It's all by grace.

APPLICATIONS:



**Galatians
4:19**

**4. The process of grace and effort
leading to true virtue is a lot like labor.
And Agriculture.**

2 Peter 1:5



APPLICATIONS:

5. Growth in godliness is freedom from slavery.

It is PART of salvation, not a cost.

It is a BENEFIT, not a payment.

Don't divide Christ's graces.

APPLICATIONS:

**6. Non-believers need to
see Godliness
AND
hear about grace.**

