

## Introduction

- Moving forward thinking “I understand” often leads to failure  
(examples: assembling furniture or cooking without reading instructions)
  - Faith works the same way
    - If we mistake its content, it becomes a “vain faith”
  - The problem in the Corinthian church
    - Some doubted the resurrection, and the foundation of their faith was shaken
  - Today’s theme
    - What is the gospel we truly must hold on to?
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## I. Standing firm and being saved through the gospel (vv. 1–2)

- Paul’s address: “Brothers”
  - Both the Corinthian church and we ourselves
    - Stand on the same one gospel
  - The key to salvation is “holding fast to the gospel”
    - “Holding fast” = gripping firmly and not letting go
  - Faith is not a vague belief
  - Salvation depends not on
    - our enthusiasm or efforts
    - but on the **content of what we believe (the gospel)**
  - Faith that loses the content of the gospel is vain
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## II. What is of first importance — The content of the gospel (vv. 3–8)

### 1. Christ died (vv. 3–4a)

- He died for our sins
- “According to the Scriptures”
  - The cross was part of God’s plan
- Not a temporary or apparent death, but a complete death
  - His burial proves this
- Together with Christ
  - We, as sinners, have died

### 2. Christ was raised (v. 4b)

- The resurrection is not merely “spiritual”
  - It is victory over death
- “According to the Scriptures”

- The resurrection was also God's plan
  - A historical fact confirmed by many witnesses
    - Peter, the Twelve, more than five hundred
    - James, the apostles, and Paul
  - The gospel is not just teaching
    - It is **fact**
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### III. An example of grace — The life of Paul (vv. 9–10)

- Paul, who persecuted the church
    - “Not worthy to be called an apostle”
  - Yet
    - “By the grace of God I am what I am”
  - The gospel's power to completely transform a life
  - It was not Paul who worked
    - but the grace of God that was with him
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### Conclusion

- We must not mistake “what is of first importance”
- The foundation of faith is not
  - zeal, deeds, or emotions
- There is only one foundation
  - the gospel fact of Christ's cross and resurrection
- We
  - stand by this gospel
  - are saved by this gospel
  - and continue to live by this gospel today
- Let us walk
  - not with a gospel we merely “know,”
  - but with a gospel we **hold fast to and live by each day**