**The King and His Gospel**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, explain what Jonathan Edwards means: *“All truth is given by revelation, either general or special, and it must be received by reason. Reason is the God-given means for discovering the truth that God discloses, whether in his world or his Word. While God wants to reach the heart with truth, he does not bypass the mind.”* To what extent does content matter in preaching the gospel? What elements of the gospel are essential? How do you balance giving adequate information without overloading the people to whom you are preaching, teaching, evangelizing, etc.?
2. Review each of the following passages and explain how Paul would have unpacked the significance of Christ’s death on the cross from the Old Testament: Exodus 34:6-7, Leviticus 16:20-21, Isaiah 53:4-5 (see also Genesis 3:15, Exodus 12:13, Psalm 22:1-21, Zechariah 3:1-5). In your own words, explain why Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead is such a pivotal doctrine. What Old Testament text does Peter cite in Acts 2:24-27? What does the original text say about the Messiah?
3. According to Henry Thiessen, for an event to be confirmed as historical or real, three things are required: there must be eyewitnesses, they must be sufficient in number, and they must demonstrate integrity and trustworthiness. Review 1 Corinthians 15:5-7 and explain how the gospel meets each of these criteria. How does the reality of Christ’s resurrection set him apart from other so-called gods? How should the reality of a living King encourage, motivate, and humble you as you seek to preach his gospel?
4. Review Acts ch. 8-9 and explain why Paul would describe himself as “one untimely born . . . least of the apostles.” How do you think Paul’s past influenced his view of God’s grace (see 1 Timothy 1:12-17)? How should Paul’s testimony impact your understanding of grace? Your own relishing of grace? Your zeal to share the gospel with the vilest of sinners?
5. In your own words, explain why it is significant that his entire section (1 Cor. 15:1-11) is bracketed by the word “preach.” What does this say about the role and content of gospel proclamation? Examine vv. 1-2 and explain what role the message of the gospel plays in the Christian life. In your own words, explain why Paul refers to the gospel as that which is of “first importance” (v. 3a). How should this understanding impact our preaching? Parenting? Discipleship? Evangelism? Marriages?