

Christ” (Romans 10:17). *The Word of God has the transformative effect on people who hear it and believe in God.*

Today’s Church is called to preach the resurrected Jesus as the first Church did. Paul captures the essence of the Christian creed in **1 Corinthians 15**. He writes, “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

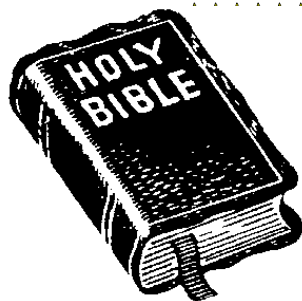
What is Paul saying regarding the Christian creed? What constitutes the gospel? Gospel, (Gr. *evangelion*, means the “good news from and about God”). (Johnson, 1999, p.77.)

According to Paul the essence of the gospel consists in these three things: (i) *Christ died for our sins* according to the Scriptures. (ii) *He was buried*. (iii) *He was raised* on the third day according to the Scriptures. This was “of the first importance” in Paul’s preaching. What we are going to make of this truth? Let me suggest that if this was the gospel then; if this was the good news for the first century Church; then this should be the gospel now; this should be the good news for the 21st century Church as well. I cannot hold myself, but prostrate before God and pray: “O, God, please help us not to depart from Your

gospel ‘unless we believed in vain.’” If this was of “the first importance” for Paul, it should be of the first importance for us too. Richard B. Hays writes, “We interpret the Scripture only when we read it in the light of the resurrection, and we begin to comprehend the resurrection only when we see it as the climax of the scriptural story of God deliverance of Israel.” (Ellen

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F. Davis & Richard B. Hays, *The Art of Reading Scripture*, (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan / Cambridge, UK, 2003), p. 216.)



The Bible says, “... *The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*”

Romans 10:8-10

God bless you!
Yours in Christ,
Valy Vaduva.

PS: Please join me in prayer:

“Father God, I pray for Your Church that she will be awakened to the necessity of spiritual maturity through discipleship making. I pray for a return to holiness and reverential fear of You in Your Church, in the precious name of Your Risen Son, Jesus Christ. Amen!”