

These Things We Believe: Forgiveness and a Future  
Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 6, 2015

[1 Cor 15:1-4, 14-22, 26, 54-55, 57](#)

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5-13... 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23-25... 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27-53... 54 "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 ... 57 ... thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

As Christians, WE BELIEVE that we are...

1. A BROKEN PEOPLE

[1 Cor 15:](#)

v. 2 By this gospel you are saved

[Rom 6:23a](#)

...the wages of sin is death...

[Rom 7:15, 17](#)

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16... 17 ... it is sin living in me.

[Prov 14:12](#)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

As Christians, WE BELIEVE that we are...

2. A FORGIVEN PEOPLE

[Rom 6:23](#)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What gospel SAVES us?

v. 3 Christ died for our sins

v. 4 that he was buried

v. 4 that he was raised on the third day

[Eph 2:4-5, 8-9](#)

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions... 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

As Christians, WE BELIEVE that we are...

3. PEOPLE WITH A FUTURE

[1 Cor 15:](#)

22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 54 "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 57 ... thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."