

**Title:** Hold Fast  
**Subtitle:** Discovering The Pure Gospel  
**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ESV  
**Fill in the Blank:** ROOT in the GOSPEL

- The concept of Grace is *the* most incredible, awe inspiring, deepest and richest truths that exist and sometimes we forget that.
- Sometimes we forget to be wowed and wooed and won and re-won by pure Gospel of Grace. The pure Gospel of Jesus. We forget that it's Good News. Great News. The Best News.
- Many of us can reduce The Gospel to being only useful for evangelism or for people who do not know Jesus.
- The Gospel is the essential discipleship tool for the believer too.
- One of the tools that the enemy uses against us is the weapon of apathy (lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern).
- We need to come back to a place where we are captivated by The Gospel.
- The Good News of The Gospel is that Jesus the Christ, God himself, God the Son, came here to this earth, as fully human and fully God, and was crucified, died for our sins, for the reality that we mess up, was buried, rose again on the 3rd day, and showed himself to witnesses as confirmation.
- The Good news of The Gospel is that Jesus was who He Said He was and did what He said He did. Our whole eternal life hinges on that reality.
- There are many things we can debate in between but we must come back to the pure Gospel.
- A lot of us have lost our enthusiasm and passion for The Gospel because we've gotten tangled in the weeds.

Fill in the blank: ROOT in the GOSPEL

- We are going to be looking at a portion of a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. In it we see him address the reality that all believers are subject to forgetting, and devaluing the pure Gospel.

- Paul has spent the previous sections of his letters issuing a series of reminders of his previous teachings and addressing various issues that had arisen in the community including spiritual gifts, prophecy and tongues, how Believers should dress, principles for marriage, sexual immorality and lawsuits
- Paul was writing to a people full of divisions! A people who were arguing about stuff that didn't even need to be an argument.
- Paul uses this letter to address these issues and more, but here, in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul reminds them of what is “first importance.”

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ESV

**15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,<sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.**

**3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.**

- The Corinthian Christians had received the Gospel, and they stood in it. Despite all their problems with carnality, lack of understanding, strife, divisions, immorality, and weird spirituality, they still stood for the gospel.
- The Corinthian Christians had done well in that they **received** the gospel. They were doing well in that they did **stand** in the gospel. But they had to continue to do well, and **hold fast** the gospel Paul preached to them.

- Every Believer must take seriously their responsibility to not only have a good past, and a good present, but to determine to have a great future with the Lord, also.
- Hold Fast. (GREEK- Katecho —kat-ekh'-o) -Take possession of, lay your hands on it and don't let go.
- The apostle Paul says that our past, present and future are founded right here in this truth of the resurrection of Jesus.
- Paul is telling the Corinthians that one of the central pieces of evidence of the truth of this Gospel is that many people witnessed the resurrected Jesus. Paul says this is not merely an idea you ought to cleave to, but a reality.
- A part of how you hold fast to the pure Gospel, is by making sure you're grounded in a **Community** of Believers. Holding fast to the Gospel will require community because Christianity is a team sport.
- Paul says he is unworthy to be an apostle and chosen by Christ. Our unworthiness should not shame us, our unworthiness is what should compel us.
- The second thing required for holding fast to the Gospel is **Humility**. The Gospel demands humility.

### **Romans 3:9-12 ESV**

**For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”**

- If you have lost your passion for the gospel and your excitement for the Gospel, ask the Lord to help you really see yourself and your need for it.
- When you understand how much you NEED it, it all of sudden becomes the most incredible thing again.
- The consequence of a Gospel that is held fast is **transformation**. That means the gospel changes who we are and what we do. Paul went from persecutor, from the one who chases people, to apostle, to the one who is sent for people.
- The Gospel of Grace becomes the catalyst for change. The Gospel message of the death and resurrection of Jesus changes everything about our lives. If it does not change

everything about who we are and what we do, then we have heard the gospel message in vain.

- A part of holding fast to the Gospel is this: when the Gospel endeavors to change you, **let it.**
- We can become numb to the Gospel when we try to hold on to who we think we are. When we have decided “Well I have changed enough now.” What if you said Lord, I’ll let you change anything about me you want?
- Holding Fast really does mean dying to yourself.
- Paul emphasizes that it was not himself doing hard work, but the grace of God that was working in his life. Grace leads us to put in real effort or else we have not experienced grace! Grace does not lead to laziness.
- We are not standing in the hope of the resurrection and not holding fast to the gospel message if we are not propelled to greater effort in Christ.
- It is easy to focus on acts and outcomes and forget why we are doing what we are doing. If what we are teaching is not about The Gospel, then we have nothing.
- Why do we assemble? The Good News of Jesus is why!
- Why do we serve? The Good News of Jesus is why!
- Why do we submit to one another? The Good News of Jesus is why!
- Everything we say and do is because of the good news of Jesus. The Gospel is the answer. The Gospel is where we stand and The Gospel is what we hold fast to.
- Stir up excitement about your own testimony with Jesus and the testimony of others.
- The Gospel is the major thing and everything else is details. Come back to that. Come back to the Pure Gospel.
- Sometimes we have to approach the faith like a little child

**Yes Jesus Loves Me- Hymn**

*Jesus loves me, this I know,*

*for the Bible tells me so.*

*Little ones to him belong;*

*They are weak, but he is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*