

**The Essence of our Faith**

1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

(Extracts from last Sunday’s sermon by **Joshua Lorin**, Principal, OTS)

**The Essence:**

What makes you a Christian? What is the essence of Christianity? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 is the essence of the Gospel. The Greek word for gospel is “*euangelion*” meaning “good news”. The Good News is that sinful men and women can be reconciled to the Almighty God by his grace. This is important. If we don’t get this right, we will miss our Christian living.

**It is Good News:**

Many people like to follow televangelists today. These preachers will tell you a lot of nice news (that God wants to prosper you), and not necessarily the Good News (that Christ can save sinners). Nice news cannot save. The Good News is *that while we were sinners Christ died for us; that God’s grace covers all my sins*. Our response is to surrender to the pursuer.

During the early days of Christianity in Nagaland, only about 20 missionaries (including their wives) worked in Nagaland. But in less than 100 years, the entire Naga inhabited area had become Christians. Why? Because when our people accepted Jesus Christ as their personal saviour, it was real. Everyone became a preacher, sharing the Good News to neighbouring villages.

**Preached. Received. Lived Out.**

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, first the Gospel is *preached*, and then it is *received*. When a check is written, the beneficiary is required to sign the check in order to draw the money from the bank. If it is not endorsed by the beneficiary, the teller would refuse the check. Likewise the Good News will do no good until you receive it and claim it as your own. Until you experience the Gospel from the heart of your heart and claim that as your own, then you have not received it.

Paul says, the Gospel is preached, received, and **lived out** (v1b-*on which you have taken your stand*). The same grace that saves you is the grace that will keep you and that will sustain you. There is a possibility that you believe Christ in vain. (v.2 – by this Gospel you are saved if you hold firmly to the Word, *unless* you believed in vain.) This means that we can believe in Jesus as Son of God, know the whole Bible and still fall a few inches short of heaven. We must believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. When we believe the Gospel in our hearts, then we give the control of our lives over to Christ, and he can live through us.

**Hollow Christians:**

Many Christians are hollow and shallow because they have not given over the control of their lives to God. *Jesus died so that he might live in and through you* (v.3). This is more than all the rules and regulations in the world put together. All major religions can survive without their founder. Not Christianity. Take Christ out of the equation, and everything falls apart.

**The Greatest Debt Paid:**

Nobody likes to be in debt. But the truth is all of us are hopelessly indebted to Christ. There was no way we could pay ourselves out of sin. “*I had a debt which I could not pay. Jesus paid the debt for me that he did not owe*”.

The essence of our faith is Jesus: Who he is; died for our sins; buried; rose again from the dead. We all deserved to die, but Jesus died for us, in our place, so that we can go free to live the life he has planned for us. Do not doubt the power of God to save and forgive the vilest sinner. Christianity is Christ. “*Do you know Christ? And does he know you?*”

# City Church

## **SUNDAY SERVICE**

- Leader : Hekali Shikhu
- Speaker : Pastor Kedo Peseyie
- Ushers : C Khanyang Imlong & Tsüren Odyuo
- Keyboard : Vizolenuo Solo
- Flower : Chumbeno

### **Call to Worship**

### **Praise & Worship**

- Reading : Psalm 119:129-136
- Amazing Grace : High School/ Bayavu, Women Colony fellowship
- Offertory & announcement
- Hymn No.144 : Jesus Saves
- Message
- Hymn No.192 : Stepping in the Light
- Benediction

### **VISION statement of the City Church:**

*City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.*

### **AIMS of the City Church:**

**Worship:** *To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.*

**Fellowship:** *To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.*

**Evangelism:** *To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God’s great salvation.*

**Discipleship:** *To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.*

**Mission:** *To send out people in obedience to God’s call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.*

### **PRAYER**

- Pray for our leaders in the Nagaland Government. 1 Timothy 2:2 says, “*Pray for the kings and for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*”.
- Pray for all the believers in Nagaland, so that we may stay alert, focused and faithful to our calling to live in unity and service to Christ and His church. Ephesians 6:18 says, “*...pray with perseverance for all the saints*”.

## PSALM 119:145-152

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD,  
and I will obey your decrees.

I call out to you; save me  
and I will keep your statutes.

I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
I have put my hope in your word.

My eyes stay open through the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promises.

Hear my voice in accordance with your love;  
preserve my life, LORD, according to your laws.

Those who devise wicked schemes are near,  
but they are far from your law.

Yet you are near, LORD,  
and all your commands are true.

Long ago I learned from your statutes  
that you established them to last forever.

**Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Tithes: ₹ 3,64,120 Mission: ₹ 1,05,000 Offering: ₹ 9,840

Building Fund: ₹ 1,00,000 Nagamese: ₹ 325 Total: ₹ **5,79,285**

### INFORMATION

- Enroute Fellowship today at 3pm.
- Wednesday Bible study at 5pm. Topic: **Covenant and Grace**.
- Next Thursday Women's fellowship @ 4:30pm. Leader- *Mrs. Tiala Toshi*, Scripture Reading- *Dr. Toshevi* and Bible study-*Mrs. Nini Bendang*.



### ENROUTE (Youth Fellowship)

**Refuge in God** (Psalm 52): David wrote Psalm 52 just after a man named Doeg helped King Saul track him down. When King Saul's men were closing in on him, David took refuge in God at the toughest moments in his life (1 Samuel 22:1-5). When David needed refuge most, he turned to God - Psalm 34:8, "*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*" Again when David was confronted by prophet Nathan for committing adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, murdered, David did not run away but took his sin to God - Psalm 51:10, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God...*" Both situations were terrible but David shows us that whether we're in a bad situation that's not our fault, or if we've sinned greatly, we must go to God. So where do we go for refuge? Do we run from them or go to God.

- **Moa Imsong**

### **NOTES:**