

## Resurrection (Part 1) – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1. Where did you see God at work in your life and the lives of others this week?

***Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (1 Cor.15:1-2)***

***For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)***

2. After everything else he has written, why do you think Paul completes the teaching portion of his letter to the Corinthian church by giving them a clear and concise reminder of the core of the gospel? How would you articulate the key components of the gospel of Jesus to someone? In what ways do you think we are prone to distort the gospel or stray from it as the foundation of all that we do?

***For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Cor.15:3-8)***

3. What makes the resurrection of Jesus so foundational to what we believe and how we live as Christians? (Why is it true that “there is no gospel without the resurrection”?)
4. In vv.3-8, what sources of witness to the resurrection do you see Paul drawing upon? Why are each of these sources important witnesses to the truth and power of the gospel?

5. If you are a Christian, what kind of witness convinced you of the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection for your sins and new life (reading the scriptures, hearing preaching, watching the life of a Christian friend)? If you're still unconvinced about Jesus dying for your sins and being raised to life, what do you think would convince you? Have you ever delved deep into the real evidence for the resurrection?

***Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 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. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1 Cor.15:8-11)***

***We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)***

***If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)***

6. Read vv.8-11. What kind of hope does the resurrected Jesus inspire in Paul, despite his sinful past? In all your own sin and brokenness, how does the resurrection of Jesus and your share in that resurrection fill you with hope now and for the future?

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9)***

7. How is God calling you to live out the truth of His Word this week?