

# BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

## Small Group Study Guide: 1 Corinthians

Week of November 17 (Week 16)

1 Corinthians 15: The Resurrection



### 1 CORINTHIANS 15: SUMMARY

“In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul dealt with another problem in the Corinthian church. He affirmed that the Christian faith rests upon the resurrection of Christ and has a sure conviction of the resurrection on the final day of all who believe in him.” (Richard L. Pratt. *1 & 2 Corinthians*. 659).

### OBSERVING & APPLYING THE TEXT

#### Remember the Gospel (15:1-4)

The Gospel is Central (Theological): The reception of the gospel is part of a Christian’s past, but it also a reality that has an ongoing present importance. The gospel is doing a present saving work in their lives, and it is a power that continues to have future significance in the life of a believer. Stephen T. Um, *1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross*, 517-18).

1. What is Paul reminding the Corinthians of in verses 1-2? What assumptions does he make about what he preached to them?
2. Why is the “gospel” of “first importance” and what are the components of the gospel? Read verses 3-6.

Reflection: “The gospel is intended to be the central power around which one’s life revolves. If a Christian’s life revolves around another person, that other person will inevitably crush that individual. If a Christian’s life revolves around himself, he will implode. But if his life is centered around the gospel, then he orbits around the one person who will not crush him (he was already crushed for you), and the believer will not implode because his center of gravity is properly aligned.” (Stephen T. Um, 520).

#### Remember the Facts of the Resurrection (15:17-19, 5-8, 24)

The Gospel is Personal (Existential): Paul speaks about the gospel as something he has experienced – something that ought to be having an effect on the Corinthian believers.

It is not merely an idea or an institutional religion. It is not even a way of looking at the world. It is historical news with ultimate personal impact. (Stephen T. Um, 523).

3. How does Paul describe the facts of the resurrection in verses 5-8?
  
4. Verse 12 suggests that there are some who don't believe in the resurrection. How does Paul demonstrate that resurrection is not only possible but essential in verses 13-19?

Reflection: "Resurrection is the hinge upon which the story of the world pivots. The doctrine of the resurrection has profound implications for how anyone lives. The resurrection of Christ in the past and the resurrection of human beings in the future have deep practical significance for the present. It changes the way both death and life are understood and experienced." Stephen T. Um, *1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross*, 527).

**Remember how the Dead are Raised (15:35-38, 51-53)**

The Gospel is Futural (Eschatological): In Jesus the natural and the supernatural come together. The present and the future converge. This is how individuals can be certain that "just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven" (v. 49). If one belongs to Jesus, his or her future supernatural resurrection body is just as certain as his or her present natural body. (Stephen T. Um, 553).

5. What does verse 35 tell us about what some Corinthians believe about the resurrection?
  
6. In answer to the objectors' question of the possibility of a recognizable resurrected body, what metaphors does Paul use to clear the doubt? Read verses 37-41.

Reflection: "The resurrection narrative tells a story with a beautiful, happy ending. The end of redemptive history is: God wins, and those who are in union with Christ will win along with him. He will renew the entire world to make it the way it is supposed to be and will undo all of the disintegration. The resurrection is a picture of what that future will look like." (Stephen T. Um, 540).

## PRAYER

### PRAYER GUIDE November 18-22, 2024 Read 1 Corinthians 15

**Monday:** 15:1-2 *"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."* Reflect on the gospel that you have heard and received. Ask God daily that He will enable you to hold fast to the gospel and live out the gospel shaped life wherever you are.

**Tuesday** 15:10 *"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."* Remember that Christian life begins by grace and continues through God's grace received by dependent faith. By the grace of God, we not only are what we are, but we also remain what we are. Praise and thank God for his grace.

**Wednesday:** 15:33-34 *"Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals. <sup>34</sup> Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame."* Think about the company you keep daily – friends, social media, news etc. Our thinking is affected by what we associate with. Earnestly pray that the Word of God shapes our thinking and not by the "evil company" of this world.

**Thursday:** 15:51 *"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."* Contemplate on the truth that whether believers die or are raptured, their bodies will be changed from the perishable to the imperishable, from the natural to the spiritual. While our present body is breaking down – deteriorating with age, sickness and paralysis, we have a great hope of getting a new body. Hallelujah!

**Friday:** 15:58 *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."* Contemplate on the fact that we have the promise of the resurrection before us, the person of the resurrection above us, and the power of the resurrection already at work within us. Until that day comes, when we are raised up or taken up, we each should use the body that we have now to do all the good we can for as long as we can *"knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*