

## **WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THE RESURRECTION MAKE? 1 Corinthians 15:12-34**

Ice Breaker: If you had to write an old-fashioned rhyming epitaph for your tombstone, what would you write?

BACKGROUND: Paul has just made the historical case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He kept saying, "I am God and I've come to rescue sinners." His death, burial and resurrection are the most important events in human history.

THE BIG PICTURE: The resurrection makes all the difference in our lives.

DIGGING DEEPER:

### **IF JESUS IS STILL DEAD 1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

- Death is our enemy. When you think of death, what comes to mind?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the only One who has conquered death?
- What false teaching is being spread among the Corinthians (v12)? Why does this kind of cynicism keep showing up, even in the church today?
- Locate the "ifs" in verses 12-19 and 29-34. From these statements, what problems emerge both for the Corinthians and Paul if there is no resurrection? If Jesus is dead, what do we lose?

### **SINCE JESUS IS ALIVE 1 Corinthians 15:20-34**

- What do we gain because of the resurrection?
  - (1) We gain a resurrection (vv20-21)
  - (2) We're adopted into a new family (v21-22)
  - (3) We'll live with Him forever in His Kingdom (vv24-28)What do each of these "gains" mean to you??
- What proofs does Paul offer that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead? What is the central proof Paul continually points to as evidence for the hope of our resurrection?
- What are "firstfruits"? What does the idea of the firstfruits reveal about the way Christ's resurrection relates to ours? What insights do you see about our future? about Jesus? about eternal life?
- Why is it important that death itself will one day be destroyed (vv 26-28)? In what way is Christ's victory over death essential to our faith? When did you connect the resurrection of Jesus with your own victory over death?
- What hope does Christ's resurrection offer? How does the resurrection bring purpose to this life?
- How does belief or disbelief in the resurrection affect how we live (vv32-34)?

CONCLUSION:

- How can we know for certain that we will be raised with Christ?
- Describe what Christ's resurrection means to you.
- Given what Paul says here, how would you explain the importance of the Resurrection to an unbeliever?
- What challenged you the most this week from this message/passage?