



1 CORINTHIANS 15

Community Group Study Guide Week of August 18, 2019

This week we concluded our series Prodigal Church by looking at 1 Corinthians 15 where Paul connects Jesus' Resurrection to our future resurrection at Christ's return. This passage give us a glorious hope for the future, and the strength and courage to persevere in the present.

Popular Christian culture often depicts eternity as an ethereal heavenly existence. It is true that God's people go to be with Christ in heaven when they die, but life after death is not the end of the story. The full hope of Scripture is in the full redemption of God's people and God's creation. We will spend eternity in Resurrected bodies in a New Creation where heaven and earth come together and God dwells with his people.

Paul writes to the Corinthians to address the dualism that was popular in their culture. Like today, many people in the first century assumed that the Spiritual was good, but the physical was bad or inconsequential. Christianity, however, insists that God's creation is good, though fallen, and in need of redemption. The Gospel is not merely an escape plan for our souls, but a redemption plan for our whole being.

Paul also wants the Corinthians to understand that this new creation will be gloriously different from our current experience. Our resurrected bodies will be immortal, imperishable, powerful, glorious and we will never experience shame or sin again. The war between our fallen sinful nature, and the Holy Spirit inside will finally be over and won. We will no longer have a sinful nature, but a Holy Spirit filled nature. We will perfectly and for all of eternity love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourself.

Paul's insistence on this future reality is rooted in the eyewitness accounts of those like himself, who had personally observed Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Paul understood that Christ had not died in vain, but through his death had purchased our redemption. Because of this, Paul concludes none of our suffering or laboring in the "work of the Lord" will be in vain either, because the same Christ is at work in us. Therefore, we're called to fix our eyes on the future, in order that we be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord right now.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the final future Resurrected state of God's people, and its implications for the present.

Heart

To fix our hearts on the hope we have in Christ, and trust that nothing we sacrifice to serve Him will be in vain.

Hands

To work hard, be steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Corinthians 15

- Paul writes to correct those who had been teaching that there was no resurrection for those who had died. Why does Paul so adamantly defend the truth of a bodily resurrection from the dead? What is at stake? Why is this a primary and central teaching of Christianity?
- Various forms of dualism in the first century Roman world led some people to a life of asceticism, and others to a life of hedonistic indulgence. Both were rooted in the idea that the body was inconsequential, and the spiritual was what really mattered. Why does Christianity reject this idea, and reject the asceticism or hedonism it can lead to?
- What did you find most challenging, compelling, or encouraging about Paul's description of our resurrected bodies?
- **Read verse 2, 10, 14, 32, and 58.** In verse 32, Paul quotes the author of Ecclesiastes who understood "God has placed eternity in the hearts of men," but also that all of life was "vanity, vanity..." How does Paul show us that the vanity of life hinges on Jesus Christ and the Gospel?
- How should v10 and v58 both challenge us and encourage us?
- What comes to mind when you think of the "work of the Lord"? What is it that we should be laboring and abounding in?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 & 5:14-21.** How do these passages help us better understand what Paul was striving for and calling them (and us) to strive for as well?
- Why is it important to understand that as we labor, work, and strive, it is actually not us, but Christ working in us? How should this shape our attitude and motivation for ministry?
- Do you have any other questions or comments about the passage or sermon? Did you find anything particularly challenging, edifying, or encouraging?