

## LifeGroup Questions

Based On: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

April 8, 2018

### Overview

In 1 Corinthians 15 the Apostle Paul writes about the resurrection of Jesus and in the latter half of the chapter he writes about the resurrection of believers. Everything Paul discusses is based on the fact Jesus rose from the dead. Why is this so important? Throughout the chapter Paul says if the resurrection of Jesus is NOT true then the gospel message and faith have no foundation, apostles are false witnesses, all faith is worthless, you are still in your sins, and believers are pitiful for putting their hope in Jesus.

For Paul the Gospel message was of first importance (1 Corinthians 15:3). He summarizes the Gospel in the next couple lines. Paul's summary states Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and raised on the third day. There are a lot of things the Christian faith can preach about (moral behavior, righteous living), but for the Apostle Paul the death, burial and resurrection was of first importance. If it wasn't for Christ's resurrection there wouldn't be any hope for believers.

Christ's resurrection guarantees the resurrection of believers. He defeated death because He knew we couldn't. He did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. The entire Gospel message centers around not what we do, but on what Jesus has done. On the cross when Jesus uttered those words, "It is finished", He had completely taken the punishment for our sins. The payment for all the sinful choices you have made in life have been paid for on the cross. But the gospel message doesn't end at the cross.

The resurrection gives hope and life. There is life after life. If you are breathing now there is a 100% chance you will be dead one day. This is not the end of the story. Paul states the resurrected bodies of believers will be incorruptible and clothed with immortality. Incorruptible means that temptation and sin will no longer exist. Immortality means the aches and decay of our earthly bodies will no longer occur. This is an amazing hope to have for life after life.

### Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

1. Benjamin Franklin once said, "in this world nothing is said to be certain, except death and taxes." If there is no resurrection of the dead Paul says we should "eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (1 Cor. 15:32) In what ways does the hope of your own resurrection impact how you live today?
2. Death is certain, but so is Life after life. With death being unavoidable, why does it seem wrong or taboo to think about your own mortality?
3. Read 1 Cor. 15:54-55. Death has been defeated. Anyone who has lost someone close knows there is still pain in separation caused by death. Feelings of loss and death being the final answer are two different thoughts. How does knowing you will one day see loved ones again give you hope now?
4. Read 2 Cor. 5:1-5. How much do you think about your future, immortal body?
5. Read and discuss the following quote from J.D. Greear.

**By J.D. Greear**

**If Jesus raised from the dead...**

- **Guilt** doesn't have the last word in our lives. Yes, apart from Him, we stand condemned. But He took the full penalty of our sin on the cross so that there is no more condemnation for those of us who are in Christ Jesus. **GUILT DOESN'T HAVE THE LAST WORD!!**
- The empty tomb means **Injustice** doesn't have the last word. Yes, we live in a world where unfair things happen. But God is going to overturn all those bad things and redeem us into a world where all wrongs are righted and He heals us for eternity.
- The empty tomb means **Addictions** don't have the last word. In the resurrection God has released a power on earth that can renew all that sin has destroyed. Maybe you've messed up your family, or your marriage, or your own life. This resurrection means that if you ask Him, He can make all things new in you.
- The empty tomb means **Pain** doesn't have the last word. This world has been described as a veil of tears where we watch everything we love eventually fall apart—everything departs at some point: our families, our bodies. Maybe you've watched someone with Alzheimer's in their last terrible days. Maybe you've experienced the death of a loved one; even a child. The resurrection shows you that pain does not have the last word. Through Christ, we are being redeemed to place where there are no more tears or crying.
- The empty tomb means **Despair** doesn't have to have the last word. Listen, as long as Jesus is alive, there is hope for you. No matter how dark the night may seem to you right now, because Jesus is alive He can bring the dawn of resurrection into your life.
- The empty tomb means **Death** doesn't have the last word. All those who die in Christ are raised with Him to an eternal existence—life forever with Him and those that love Him.

If Jesus resurrected, none of these things that cause you grief—guilt, injustice, addictions, pain, despair, death and the loss of loved ones—have the final word. The empty tomb is the final word.