

1 Spending Time with Jesus in I Corinthians Chapter 15

Invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

1st: read I or II Corinthians (read the one you didn't read last week) all the way through, the whole book, imagining you are Paul saying this to the church in Corinth. To help you remember and ENJOY what you are reading, read out loud for at least 15 minutes each time (longer would be even better.)

2nd: read chapter 15 by itself to remember what it is about.

3rd: read chapter 15 again and write down what stands out to you.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through, answer questions as you go:

I Corinthians 15:1-11

What does the word "gospel" mean?

In verse 2, by what are you saved and when are you saved? By this _____ you are _____, if you _____ to the _____ I _____ to you.

How are we supposed to hold to the word Paul preached? _____

What does "Otherwise, you have believed in vain" mean?

Look back at I Corinthians 11:23. Where did Paul get what he passed on to the Corinthians? From the _____.

Similar to I Cor. 11:23-25, Paul starts off 15:3 with "For what I received I passed on to you as of _____: that _____ for our _____ according to the _____, that he was _____, that he was _____ on the _____ according to the _____, and that he _____ to (a bunch of people.)"

Look back at those blanks you just filled in. That is the gospel in a simple form that is easy to memorize...and beginning just a few months after Jesus died and rose again, the church has been proclaiming this same gospel.

What was more important to Paul than that? _____ How far would Paul go to pass this truth on? (think back to Acts or the rest of I and II Corinthians)

How many people did Paul say Jesus appeared to after he rose from the dead?

Why would he make this list?

Why did Paul think he was not worthy to be called an apostle?

How did Paul go from persecuting the church to becoming the man who risked his life to tell the Corinthians and other Gentiles the gospel? The _____ of _____. (I Cor. 15:10)

How many times in v. 10 does Paul mention this word? _____ Is that significant? If so, why?

If someone asked you what the “grace of God” meant, what would you say?

Paul goes back to what he was saying in verses 1-2 about the gospel. His point is that all the people who saw Jesus after he rose from the dead teach the SAME gospel...the one we have to hold on to firmly. So apparently, someone is teaching the Corinthians something different...and the Corinthians are listening to them!

Have you noticed this is the LONGEST chapter? What is it mostly about? _____ Why do you think Paul spends so much time talking about it?

Since you’ve read this chapter twice at least this week, what do you think the false teaching is? (if you aren’t sure, jump ahead to verse 12.)

I Corinthians 15:12-34

Paul plays a “What if” game. What would it be like IF there is no resurrection?

(Fill in the blanks from verses 13-18)

IF there is _____ of the _____, then **not even** _____ has been raised.

IF

THEN our _____ is _____ and so is your _____

AND

we are found to be _____ witnesses about God!

GULP! Isn't there a commandment somewhere against being a false witness?

IF the _____ are not _____, then _____ has not been _____ either.

IF

THEN your _____ is _____ and you are still in your _____.

AND

those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ are _____.

IF only for _____ life we have _____ in Christ, we are of all people _____ to be _____.

In verse 20, Paul ends the “what if” and goes back to the gospel:

But Christ has INDEED been _____ from the dead! He is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. What do you think “firstfruits” are?

If there are firstfruits, what will follow? If a tree produces the first ripe cherry of the season, what do you expect will happen later?

If Jesus is the firstfruits of those who have died, what does Paul say we can be sure will happen later? (see vv. 22-23)

What does Paul mean when he says, “The last enemy to be destroyed is death”? Who will destroy it?

Fighting “wild beasts” (v. 32) or being surrounded by strong animals (Psalm 22:12) is a metaphor used to describe having your enemies hunt you down to kill you. “Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die” is what gladiators would say at supper on the night before they would fight one another to the death.

Paul's point is, why would I face death every day if I weren't absolutely, completely, 100% certain that Christ was raised from the dead and will one day raise all who believe in Him?

I Corinthians 15:35-58

For fun, draw an illustration of someone "planting the body that will be" instead of a seed? (v. 37)

What Old Testament story do you think Paul is thinking of? (look at the words: people, animals, fish, birds, heavenly bodies, sun, moon, stars...) _____ Any idea what he's getting at?

So the "body that is sown" is the body God created for us when we were in the womb. It is only flesh and blood and so not able to inherit the kingdom of God which is eternal. It is made in the image of the first Adam, who was made from the ground.

Who is the last Adam? (vv. 45-49)

What would you guess that it means that we shall "bear the image of the heavenly man"?

What does "perishable" mean? _____

What does "mortal" mean? _____

A trumpet sounds when a king comes to take his throne. It is an announcement to everyone in the kingdom to rejoice. But our earthly bodies can't enter that kingdom. What does Paul say will happen (vv. 51-57)?

In v. 53, how does Paul describe what must happen the perishable and the mortal? They must _____ themselves with the imperishable and immortality. What do you think about that word picture?

Death is “the last enemy to be defeated”. Think of a critter with a stinger. What does “the sting of death is sin” mean (v. 56)?

How do we have victory over this enemy?

What did our Lord Jesus Christ do to defeat death?

What does Paul tell us believers to do **now** BECAUSE of this **incredible eternal future** we have?

What do you think is the most important verse in this chapter?

Thinking about just this chapter, what one adjective would you use to describe Jesus? Why?