

Focus passage: 1 Corinthians 15:3-19

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **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. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

What stands out to you from this passage?

What does it mean that what Paul writes is of first importance? What do you consider to be most important?

Why is Paul least of the apostles? How would it feel to be so greatly used by God after having so greatly persecuted his church?

What would be the consequence if Jesus Christ was not raised from the dead?

*What did the resurrection accomplish? **Read Romans 1:1-6***

*What does Christ's resurrection mean for us? **Read Romans 8:10-11***

By the resurrection we know Christ was who he said he was, that he conquered death, and that he has promised us life everlasting. If that is what we believe and it is true, instead of most to be pitied, what condition are Christians in?

Does it give you comfort to look ahead to the resurrection of the body?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

