

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

**1** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

**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.

*This passage is often used as a corporate statement of faith in churches and is therefore a more familiar passage. Is there a part that stands out to you? Anything in this summary that you often overlook?*

*Having read through fourteen chapters of Paul's letter, we now have the opportunity to remember who he had been before the grace of God. Paul was a persecutor of the church. Does remembering that fact change the way you read his letter? If God can use Paul (Saul), is there a reason God couldn't use you?*

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19**

**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.

*There are issues about which faithful Christians may disagree. Would Paul allow disagreement about the resurrection? Why?*

*What do you believe about the resurrection of the dead? When it comes to what happens after our bodies die, you think in terms of "going off to heaven" or awaiting a resurrection of the body?*

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-34**

**20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. **28** When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. **29** Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? **30** Why are we in danger every hour? **31** I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! **32** What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." **33** Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." **34** Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

*What does it mean to have something under your feet? How does that phrase apply to Jesus Christ?*

*One way to understand "baptized on behalf of the dead" is to see it as "for the sake of." In other words, some put their trust in Jesus Christ for the sake of a believer who has passed, and in hopes of seeing them again at the resurrection. Paul here is saying that if you hope to see someone again, but there is no resurrection, then you do so in vain. What else is in vain if Christ is not raised? If there is no resurrection, what does Paul say we should do? Why?*

### **Romans 6:1-8**

**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

*Paul is illustrating how we have, in a sense, hitched our wagon to Jesus Christ. Besides the resurrection, how else will our lives follow Jesus? What can we expect to encounter in life if we experience what he went through?*

*How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?*