

SMALL GROUP LESSON

APRIL 29, 2018

OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

Just about everyone has heard these words, "First things first." That's precisely what Paul had in mind when he wrote the fifteenth chapter of his first letter to the church in Corinth. He wanted to set them straight about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, especially with regards to his death, burial, and resurrection. So let's take a look at what he had to say.

1. The church in Corinth had a lot of problems. Issues such as dissension and strife among the membership, flagrant sexual immorality, and gluttonous behavior when celebrating the Lord's Supper were destroying the church. On top of all of that a theological heresy had arisen regarding Jesus Christ. What was it and how had it impacted the church?
2. In verses 3 – 7 Paul speaks of that which he feels is of first importance regarding the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Where did that information come from? Was it something that he came up with or was there another source from which it was derived?
3. In this passage of Scripture, especially verses 3 – 7, Paul may have been quoting an early creedal statement about Christ. Why do you think he placed such importance upon the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and why did he say that these events in Christ's life were supported by Old Testament Scripture? Can you think of any Old Testament passages that predicted what happened to Jesus, especially with regards to what Paul stated about Christ in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
4. Who did Paul say had witnessed the resurrection of Christ and why do you think he felt it necessary to provide this information? Why do you think he said that Christ appeared to him as one abnormally born?
5. Why is the resurrection of Christ so essential to the Christian faith? What would happen to Christianity if it could be proven that Christ was not raised from the dead? Is it just a matter for doctrinal discussion, or does it also impact our lives personally? Consider, for example, Philippians 3:20-21 and 1 John 3:2.

Take a few moments to read the remaining verses of the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. Paul presents a wealth of information about the resurrection including what we can expect to experience when our time on earth comes to an end.