

The Old Rugged Cross:
The Death of Jesus in the Letters of Paul
Session 3 – Jesus' Death and Resurrection
February 4, 2008

OPEN:

In groups of two or three, answer the following: If you could ask Jesus any three questions and receive answers that were unambiguous and clear, what would you ask and why?

REVIEW:

According to Paul, who was the major player in the death of Christ?
Why was this done?

What does it mean that through the cross, Jesus justified us?

- ... Redeemed us?
- ... Reconciled the world to himself?
- ... Crucifies our sinful self?

STUDY:

In 1 Corinthians, Paul begins the letter by proclaiming that "Christ crucified... is the power of salvation to all who believe." He does not speak much of the resurrection at the beginning of the letter, but in chapter 15, he examines how the resurrection relates to Christ's death and is, like Christ's death, "for us."

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What is the good news that Paul proclaimed?

How many people did Jesus appear to, at a minimum, after the resurrection?

What would it mean to believe in vain (as in verse 3)?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. What is the problem that Paul is addressing in this chapter?

If those who preach what Paul argues against are correct, what in verses 13-14 does he say about his work and the faith of the people?

According to verse 17, not only is our faith futile but what else is wrong with us if Christ has not been raised?

But in other parts of scripture, we hear that Christ died for our sins. What does the resurrection have to do with the forgiveness of sins?

In chapter 1, Paul writes "we preach Christ crucified." How is this proclamation incomplete, according to these verses?

What does verse 19 say about us, if there is no resurrection?

Why would this be true?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-29. According to verse 20, how is Jesus' resurrection for us?

How are death and resurrection related in this passage?

What's verse 29 about?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:30-34. What is Paul's life like, and how does the hope of the resurrection spur him on?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49. What question is asked here, and how does Paul respond?

What has to happen to the earthly body?

How does this illumine the stories of Jesus' resurrection?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. What will happen at the end?

What will happen then to death, sin and the law?

What does such faith help us to do, according to verse 58?

REFLECT

How do the crucifixion and resurrection interrelate in their benefits for us?