

The Case For Life After Death

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 15:12-34)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, May 29th, 2016

The Question: Is there life ...

(1 Cor 15:12-19)

Exhibit A: Jesus is ...

(1 Cor 15:20-25)

Key Reminder: Battles are ...

(1 Cor 15:26-28)

Exhibit B: Other people's ...

(1 Cor 15:29)

Exhibit C: Paul's ...

(1 Cor 15:30-34)

If the Gospel isn't true, what is true?

1. Faith in Jesus is ...

(1 Cor 15:14, 17)

2. The NT is ...

(1 Cor 15:15, John 11:25)

3. Heaven is ...

(1 Cor 15:18)

4. A Christian is ...

(1 Cor 15:19)

5. Personal sacrifice is ...

(1 Cor 15:30-32)

If the Gospel is true, what should we do?

(Acts 2:37-42)

1. Choose to ...

v38a

2. Choose to ...

v38b

3. Choose to ...

v42

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 9" of this season of our small groups at GPC! Including this meeting, we have four more discussions before we take a summer break. Our last small group meeting will be the week of June 19th and then we will take the rest of June, July and August off.

Getting Started:

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, what did you find most interesting, challenging or thought provoking as we took a look at 1 Corinthians 15:12-34?

Getting started on a lighter note, the passage we are looking at this week is where Paul makes the case for the resurrection of Jesus Christ by giving evidence to support the resurrection. Do you have a favorite movie or TV show that included a courtroom drama? Who was or still is your favorite detective? If you don't like the courtroom shows, what is your favorite type of movie or TV show?

Last weekend, we celebrated Memorial Day as a country which is a holiday for remembering the people who died while serving in our country's armed forces. Take a moment and not only remember these fallen soldiers, but pray for their families as they continue to experience their loss.

The focus of last week's message was on the hope we can have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and an eternal home in heaven. Speaking of heaven, who is the person you would most like to see when you get there?

Digging Deeper:

1. In 1 Cor. 15:17, Paul says that if Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile. He goes on to say we would still be in our predicament of not being forgiven for our sins if Christ was still dead. His lack of resurrection would have disproved his deity. Even though the resurrection is true, sometimes our faith can still feel futile. When have you felt like your faith was not worth much and how did you recover from that feeling?

2. In studying this week's passage in 1 Corinthians 15, Bob gave us five things that would be true if the Resurrection didn't happen. Two of them were 'heaven is fiction (just a myth to make us feel good) and 'personal sacrifice is foolish'. Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:32, without the resurrection, he would just live for the moment and get as much temporary pleasure as possible. In contrast to these, we see throughout the Bible people making decisions about life based on the reality of heaven and the wisdom of sacrificing for God's Kingdom. How do you see the people mentioned in the following verses living in ways that reflect these truths?

Hebrews 11:24-28 and Hebrews 11:32-38

3. When someone decides to live in light of the reality of the Resurrection, there will be a cost involved because anything worth much usually costs much. How do Jesus' words about the cost of following Him in Luke 14:25-35 fit with your spiritual journey and/or experience in following Him?

4. The Resurrection is the ultimate proof that Jesus is who he claimed to be and everything he said about himself is true. In light of that, let's examine some statements Jesus made about himself in John's gospel using the phrase "I am." Next to each passage, write down the ways that statement's truth could impact your life.

John 6:35-51

John 8:12

John 10:7-10

John 10:11-18

John 11:25-26

John 14:6

5. In 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 Paul wraps up this section with a warning and a challenge.

The warning is about the company we keep. When have you experienced the truth that 'bad company corrupts good character?'

If that is the case, as you related to friends that are not committed to Christ, how can you be careful to not let their influence cause you to compromise your character? What are some specific ways being part of a small group can help?

Along with the above warning, in v34, he offers the challenge to 'stop sinning' - for there are some around them who don't know God and who are observing their behavior. Although we will never completely 'stop sinning', what can help us be less of a stumbling block to those God wants to reach through our lives and words?

Lastly, how can we pray for each other as we wrap up?