

Homegroup Questions – 1 Corinthians 15:20-34

Icebreaker

What has made you smile this week?

Introduction

This week we are carrying on in 1 Corinthians 15, looking at how Christ's resurrection guarantees our own and what that means for our lives today.

Let's pray

Study

Part 1

Read 1 Cor 15:20-28

- Does anyone remember why Paul is speaking like this? (*Some people in the Corinthian church deny the resurrection of the dead, perhaps holding to traditional Greek beliefs where the soul escapes the body*)
- Look at verse 20. How does Paul describe Christ's resurrection? (*Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*)
- The firstfruits refer to the initial crop that can be harvested before the rest of the produce comes. What is Paul saying by using this analogy? (That Jesus' resurrection is the first that shows that ours will follow)
- Look at verses 21-22. How does Paul show that Christ represents humanity? (*By him coming as a man*)

In verses 24-28 Paul then goes to reference several prophetic words from the Old Testament.

Part 2

(Leaders may now choose one of two options)

Option 1: Short Discussion

- In what way do you think this passage assures us about death and resurrection?

Option 2: Examining Paul's references

(Ask different individuals to turn to Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 8:6 and Psalm 110:1)

Read Daniel 7:11-14

- How does this passage display the authority of the Son of Man (*all evil is destroyed (11-12), it's demonstrated visibly in the image of coming on the clouds (13), operating in the very*

presence of God (13), directly given authority by God (14), worshipped by every tribe and nation (14), everlasting kingdom which is beyond destruction (14))

Read Psalm 8:6 and Psalm 110:1

- In Psalm 8, under whose feet is authority being placed? (*Psalm 8 – humans, referring to God's commission in Genesis 1:26-27*)
- Why, then, does Paul apply this verse to Christ's authority? (*Because Christ represents mankind, Paul infers this comparison in 1 Cor 15:22*)
- In Psalm 110, under whose feet is authority being placed? (*The Messiah*)
- If God's commission to humankind is fulfilled in Christ, what does that mean for us? (*We will reign with Christ, fulfilling God's purpose for us, as described in Psalm 8. This is also stated in 2 Tim 2:12. Jesus' glorification at the Resurrection enables our commission to be fulfilled when Christ comes again. Through all enemies being destroyed, including sin and death, we can live in and under Christ, who has dominion and authority.*)

Part 3

Read 1 Cor 15:29-31

Leaders Note: 'Baptised for the Dead' – Scholars have different opinions over this phrase, but one popular interpretation is that people were baptized into faith through the assurance of seeing their dead loved ones again. This may have been a popular route for people coming to faith in this culture and Paul uses it to show that the resurrection of the dead gives hope in an imperfect world of suffering and death.

- Paul articulates that suffering and facing death are still part of our reality today. Do you think the resurrection of the dead gives us comfort in any way? If so, how?

Read 1 Cor 15:32-34

- Paul says that we should live differently as a result of believing in the resurrection. In what ways does Paul say our lives should be different? (*Being led by Christ instead of other people, stop sinning, pay attention to God*)
- How else do you think our lives should be different as a result of being confident of the resurrection?

Response

Pray for each other, that because of Christ we might be certain of the resurrection and live in a way that speaks of that certainty. Pray for any specific areas that people want prayer (e.g. doubt, character, bad habits etc)