

Taking It Home

Applying the word in daily life together

May 1, 2011



SUMMARY of 1 Cor 15:1-8... The Christians in Corinth had a church in grave danger. There were problems with cliques, failures of morality, and confusion about leadership. Problems like those, however, paled in comparison with the danger Paul addressed in ch 15: neglecting the gospel of Christ since *a church that cherishes the gospel embraces its mission.*

Digging a Little Deeper... asking questions of the passage:

- 1. Cherishing the gospel redefines our past...** "which you received" (verses 3-8)
 - a. What did Paul consider to be of "first importance"? _____
 - b. What is similar about all the verbs in v 3-8? _____
 - c. What does this (the tense) reveal about the gospel? _____
 - d. What does the phrase "in accordance with the Scriptures" reveal about God's plans? _____

- 2. Cherishing the gospel stabilizes our present...** "in which you stand" (verses 56-58)
 - a. What is the enemy Paul describes in verse 56? _____
 - b. What is the victory Paul describes in verse 57? _____
 - c. What do you notice about the tense of the verb in v 57? _____
 - d. How can believing this give us hope that our labor for Christ isn't pointless? _____

- 3. Cherishing the gospel refocuses our future...** "by which you are being saved" (verses 9-55).
 - a. Look back over the content of this chapter. What promises does God make about our future? _____

 - b. Why does Paul call Christ's resurrection a "firstfruits"? _____
 - c. How does Christ's resurrection point us to have hope for the future? _____

Putting it into action... asking questions of ourselves:

- 1. Celebrating the Gospel:** In your own words, what is the gospel? How does the fact that the gospel focuses on Christ's work (and not yours) give you reason to rejoice? What are you tempted to value more than the gospel?
- 2. Living out the Gospel:** How does Christ's work help you to redefine your past? Is there anything in your past you're tempted to believe Christ's work can't overcome? How does the gospel help you forgive other's sins? When you think about your future, are you tempted to think that your best days are behind you? How is the hope of the gospel shaping the way you view the life that is ahead of you?
- 3. Proclaiming the Gospel:** There is a world around us that stands on nothing but sinking sand. Their confidence in their goodness or accomplishments will ultimately dissolve. Who can we pray for that you're going to tell about your present hope in the fact that "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures."