1 Corinthians Message Series

Discussion Guide based on the morning message on January 9, 2011

Implications of the Resurrection (Part 1): 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Big Idea: Realize the historical and future implications of the resurrection.

1. Historical Implications of the Resurrection (20-22).
2. Future Implications of the Resurrection (23-28).

Teaching Point 1

- There is a connection between Jesus' resurrection and the Old Testament. Take a look at Leviticus 23:9-14. As the Lamb of God, Jesus died on Passover. As the sheaf of firstfruits, He arose from the dead three days later on the first day of the week. When the priest waved the sheaf of the firstfruits before the Lord, it was a sign that the entire harvest belonged to Him. When Jesus was raised from the dead, it was God's assurance to us that we shall also be raised one day as part of that future harvest. (Bible Exposition Commentary - New Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – New Testament, Volume 1.)
    - Explore the word "first" from "firstfruits". Q.: In what ways was Jesus a "first"? (first to be born of a virgin, first to be God in human flesh, first to do miracles in His own power, first to be resurrected from the dead, etc.) Jesus was the first of His kind. He did something no one else could do before or has done since. His power and authority are unmatched.
    - Explore the word "fruit" from "firstfruits". Q.: In what way is Jesus a "fruit" of what was before and a fruit of what is to come? (before: Jesus is a fruit of God's compassion on humankind. To come: Jesus' resurrection proves the resurrection is possible for mankind.) Jesus' resurrection has so much credibility from surviving writings that it should be considered historical fact. We have written eye witness surviving testimony from real people whom the historical record recognizes.
    - Compare and contrast Adam and Jesus.
        - Adam – in him all die — Jesus – in Him all can live
        - Adam – the first man who sinned — Jesus – the first man never to sin
        - Adam – cast out by sin — Jesus – the man who breaks the power of sin

Teaching Point 2

- Jesus' resurrection assures that He will conquer in the end. What will Jesus conquer at the end of time? (dominion, authority, power, enemies, death) The implication for us given that fact is enormous. It assures that we are on the "winning side" … that we are partners with the One who has all power … that our Daddy is the strongest of all … that our Coach will be victorious.

<u>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</u>

- In what ways was Jesus a "first"?
- In what way is Jesus a "fruit" of what was before and a fruit of what is to come?
- Why can we say that the resurrection is historical fact? How does the fact that the resurrection is so documented help strengthen our faith?
- Compare and contrast Adam and Jesus.
- What will Jesus conquer at the end of time?
- What are the implications for us given the fact that Jesus will conquer in the end?