

"Now what?" Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

Intro

- John Piper sermon at Advance the Church '13
- The need to answer the question- we have celebrated the resurrection- now what?
- Table of contents
 - Understanding the shape and contours of 1 Corinthians 15
 - Understanding the promise of inheritance and victory
 - Our response

Understanding the shape and contours of 1 Corinthians 15

- **v. 1-11: The Resurrection is central to the Gospel message**
- v. 12-19: The Danger of Denying the Resurrection of the Dead
 - It is logical impossible to believe the Gospel in its fullness and question God's power to raise the dead to life.
 - **v. 19- If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**
- v. 20-28: The Significance of Christ's Resurrection
 - Christ's resurrection is the guarantees of God's plan to subdue all authorities that would oppose him and bring to fruition the transformation of those that belong to him
- v. 29-34: Exhortations
 - If the resurrection is false, what benefit is there for us?
 - **v.32-34- What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.**
- v. 35-49: Answers to Objections
- v. 50-57: God's Ultimate Victory Through the Resurrection

Inheritance and Victory

- **Romans 7.11-14- 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. 13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in**

me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

Our Response- Be Steadfast and Immovable, Ever Abounding in the Work of the Lord

- “Resurrection means endless hope, but no resurrection means a hopeless end” - David Garland on 1 Corinthians 15
- Your work is not in vain . . .

Discussion Questions

Read 1 Cor 15:50-58

1. In v. 58, Paul ends his discussion on the importance of Jesus’ resurrection by exhorting believers to be steadfast.

- a. How does Jesus’ resurrection give us both the grounds and the power to be steadfast?
- b. What threat are you currently facing that you need to meet head-on? Or where are you struggling to be steadfast?
- c. Practically speaking, what does this look like for you to be steadfast in this situation? What do you need to do?
- d. What is keeping you from doing what you need to do (e.g. fear, doubt, selfishness, laziness, etc.) ?
- e. What truths of Scripture address the thing that is hindering you? What does the Bible say about the thing that is holding you back?

2. The other thing that Paul tells us to do is to abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that our work is not in vain.

- a. What does it mean to abound in the work of the Lord?

b. What work (or works) of the Lord do you feel especially called to in this season of life?

c. What are you learning or finding as you serve God in this area? What is God teaching you?

d. How can we transform everything that we do into a work of the Lord?

e. What are you currently doing that feels vain, empty and meaningless? Why does it feel that way to you?

f. How does the reality of the gospel, and more specifically the resurrection, make this activity meaningful?

Pray for one another in two areas:

1. Pray that for those in your group that shared specific areas where they need to stand firm.

2. Pray for those who are struggling to find meaning in certain aspects of their life, that their perspective would be transformed.