

Sermon Discussion Guide

April 1, 2018

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Title: Resurrection Now

Series: Ad hoc 2018

Preacher: Walter Henegar

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, **2** and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Sermon Summary

The bodily death and resurrection of Jesus is the central event on which the Christian faith stands. Those who carefully consider, believe, and hold fast to it can be assured of their own bodily resurrection, in a fully renewed world, when Jesus returns. Until then, the resurrection power of Jesus is already at work in three graces: disruptive grace that resurrects dead hearts, invigorating grace that fuels hard work, and contagious grace that passes the Gospel to others.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you struggle to believe in the resurrection of Jesus? If so, what part of it is hardest to believe?
2. What arguments and/or experiences help persuade you that the resurrection is true?
3. In what ways do you identify with Paul as “unworthy,” insufficient, or not enough?
4. Describe a time when you have experienced God’s grace “with you” in a way that gave you exceptional energy to work hard for his purposes. What was it like? When you are *not* experiencing that, what might be some of the reasons?
5. What are some good reasons to be careful about sharing your faith with others? What are some bad reasons? How does the vitality of your personal faith affect that decision?

Prayer Prompts

- Thank you, Lord, for disrupting my life by _____
- Jesus, give me strength to work harder at _____
- Father, make my faith contagious toward _____ (specific person or group)