

Reflection Questions: 1 Corinthians 15

For the message, "Of First Importance" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 30, 2021

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

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 [i.e., Peter], 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.

Key Points: There are three key "E" words to help us remember what is of first importance

- There was an **Execution**
 - There was an **Empty tomb**
 - There were **Eyewitnesses**
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QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- In your own experience of the Christian faith, how important has the resurrection of Jesus been to you? Do you tend to think of it often, or only when Easter rolls around?
- The pastor emphasized the three "E's" of this passage about the gospel: the execution, the empty tomb, and the eyewitnesses. What place does another E word, experience, play in our understanding of the faith? In other words, how should our experience be grounded in the facts of the life, death, & resurrection of Jesus? And what happens if we neglect or forget the facts of the gospel and try to just live on our experience?

- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What role should the community of Jesus play in reminding us of the basics of the gospel, these things that are of first importance?
- Martin Luther said we should regularly preach the gospel to each other (i.e., to other believers) because we are prone to forget the gospel? What do you think about what he said?
- If a community of faith forgets what's of first importance, what are some other things that become of first importance to churches but are really not? Can you think of some examples?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What questions do you think people in our city would ask of this text?
- The first followers of Jesus turned the world upside down proclaiming the risen Jesus and calling people to follow Jesus? How would you like to grow in your ability to do this? How do you need to be equipped? How do your prayers need to change?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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- _____
- _____