

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 15:3-11

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read [the passage].

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1 Corinthians 15:3–11 (ESV)

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.

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1. How would you summarize the content of 15:3-11 in a concise sentence?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What does the “for” indicate in verse 3? What then is the purpose of 15:3-11 in relation to 15:1-2?
3. When did Paul “deliver” what he had originally received?
4. Why does Paul describe his delivered message “as of first importance?” What does Paul intend for the Corinthians to think about his original gospel message?
5. What is Paul suggesting to the Corinthians about the fact that he “received” this message that he is delivering to them?
6. Read Galatians 1:11-24. What does this contribute to your understanding of what and how Paul received this gospel message?

❖ Day 2

❖ Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-11 again.

7. Notice the “that” statements. List the primary contents of this important message Paul delivered to the Corinthians:

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8. In light of what some in the Corinthian church were suggesting (15:12) what is significant about the phrase “in accordance with the Scriptures?” What are they saying about the Scriptures if they deny the resurrection?
9. What Old Testament Scriptures can you think of that predicted the death of Christ?
10. No Old Testament passage specifically predicts the resurrection of the Messiah on the third day. However there are a few allusions to the concepts.

Read Luke 24:45-46. What does it suggest about the biblical basis for the resurrection?

Read Hosea 6:2. Many understand this to be a messianic passage. What does it say about resurrection?

Read Acts 2:25-33 and describe how Peter used this Old Testament passage to speak about Christ.

11. Outside the Gospel accounts, Paul is the only writer in Scripture to note the burial of Jesus. Why, in 1 Corinthians 15:4, is it important for Paul to also note that Jesus “was buried?” Why would this have been significant for the Corinthians and what it is about resurrection that they are denying?
12. Notice that the phrase “he was raised,” is given in what is called the *passive* voice. Jesus did not raise himself. He was raised. Who is Paul hinting to as the one who raised him? What is significant about this?

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❖ Day 3

❖ Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-11 again.

13. List all those who to whom Christ appeared after his resurrection.

14. What is most significant about the specific people Paul mentions?

15. Who is Cephas and why is it significant that he is mentioned first?

16. Who does “the twelve” refer to?

17. No Scriptural record outside 1 Corinthians 15:6 records Jesus speaking to 500 disciples at one time. We do not know where this is or who was present. What do we know about this group from what we learn here and why is it likely stated?

18. Who is James and how do you know (15:7)?

19. Who are “all the apostles,” especially since “the twelve” were already mentioned?

20. What does Paul mean when he refers to himself as “untimely born?”

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21. In verse 9, How does Paul describe himself and his apostleship and why would he use such negative terminology, especially with a church that already struggles with his apostolic authority?
22. Why is it important for Paul to complete his description of his ministry as he does in v 10?
23. Who does the “they” refer to in verse 11 and why is this verse so significant in light of what Paul has been saying in verses 5-10?
24. What was the impact that Paul wanted to have on the Corinthian Christians by writing this section?
25. What impact should these verses have on you and your confidence in the details of the gospel message?
26. Why do we see some professing Christians shrinking away from defending the supernatural elements associated with the gospel message of Jesus today? Why should you be confident in these parts of the gospel?
27. What does this passage suggest about using physical evidence to prove the claims of the resurrection? How are they helpful or unhelpful? Will these physical evidences actually convince people of the truthfulness of the gospel?

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28. How will you make the most use of this passage this week in your own life? Your sharing the gospel with non-Christians? Your prayer life? Your interactions with fellow believers?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that God would use the preaching of his Word to open blind eyes, to replace hard hearts, and to bring the spiritually dead to life. Pray that the Lord will help Pastor Bret understand the passage so that he can make it clear to us. Pray that Summit Woods will receive the gospel, stand firm in the gospel, be saved by the gospel, and hold fast to the gospel.