

## CORINTH – A DEEPER LOOK

**MONDAY 5.9.16** Read 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Isaiah 54:7, Hosea 6:2, Jonah 1:17. Do Paul's words make more sense when you get to read the actual scriptures he is referring to when saying Jesus died and was resurrected "according to the scriptures?" What things did you notice? *In what way does tradition and history play a part in our choices today? How much balance should there be between new ideas and the way things have been done?*

**TUESDAY 5.10.16** Read 1 Cor. 15:3-7. Paul is addressing a misunderstanding that the Corinthian Christians have. They are not fully grasping what resurrection really is. The word for Jesus being raised up (*egeiro*) was simply the phrase "getting up" but because it was in the passive voice, it meant that God was doing the action (It is God who raised Jesus.) It means that the dead body has been transformed, not simply brought back or resuscitated. Resuscitated persons still have to die. Paul also points out the verification of the resurrection by witnesses saying he appeared (*ophthe*) which is again in the passive voice meaning God made it to happen. God gets the credit. *Have you ever considered the difference between resurrection and resuscitation? What does it mean to consider being completely new? What lesson is learned that God is responsible for it all, we have no power of our own but it was done for our sake?*

**WEDNESDAY 5.11.16** Read 1 Cor. 15:8-10. Paul's description "untimely born" refers to him coming late to the faith. It would seem it was used as a criticism of his authority. Instead of arguing that it is great, he says he was terrible and in desperate need of grace—on even a sinner such as himself! (Galatians 1:15) He confesses his persecution of the people of Jesus (Acts 8:3, Galatians 1:13, Phil. 3:6) and with this grace, Paul shows himself as completely dependent on grace. *Have we become so accustomed to Paul's story that we forget how far he came? What if the head of ISIS converted to Christianity and began preaching in the Muslim world of the transforming love of Jesus? How would we respond to such a leader? Would we be skeptical of sincerity? Perhaps this is the best way to understand what Paul was going through?*

**THURSDAY 5.12.16** Read Philippians 2:1-13 and Galatians 3. How do these passages compare to Paul's laying out the basics of faith in 1 Corinthians 15:3-11? In all of these letters, Paul takes the Great Story of God's saving purpose in Jesus Christ and weaves or grafts on his own story. *How do you see your story connecting with God's? Where do you come in, where is salvation celebrated and shared in the Bible part of who YOU are?*

**FRIDAY 5.13.16** Read Philippians 3:13-14, 1 Thess. 4:1, 10. Paul writes for Christians to understand the balance between our present lives and God's ultimate plan. Corinthians didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead because many were Greco-Romans where resurrection was only an isolated incident (hence believing in the resurrection of Jesus, but not their own) and they didn't see anyone coming back. Paul said that believers were "already" in the kingdom while "not yet" fully received into eternity, but with confidence could anticipate it. *How do you see living in that balance between "already/not yet" on a daily basis?*

**SATURDAY 5.14.16** Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. The two-sides of grace is a critical reminder from Paul. On one hand, grace is a free gift from God that we cannot and will not ever earn. Grace opens up the life of faith to us and is the invitation into a right relationship with God and is the cause of great celebration and thankfulness. On the other hand, grace can be very unsettling. It changes lives and people often resist change. The "shaking up" of our lives as Christ-followers can be tempting for us to only observe, proclaiming the gift and not undergoing the tough and sometimes painful transformation that grace inspires. *How do you understand God's grace in your life? How can we as Christians be bold enough to embrace the grace that really wants to change our very hearts?*

**Love:** How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

**Learn:** What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

**Share:** What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

**Serve:** Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

**Healing Strength:** Stan Enschede, Rex Townsend, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna's daughter)

**Homebound Members:** Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

**Military Personnel:** Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark