

Reflection Questions: 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

For the message, "The Transformation of Death" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 21, 2019

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.

A summary of the message: The "Gospel" is "Good News." And of first importance in understanding the Gospel of Jesus is to remember that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and then rose again from the dead and appeared to numerous people whose lives were never the same, including folks like Thomas the Skeptical Disciple of Jesus, James the Unbelieving Brother of Jesus, and Paul the Zealous Enemy of Jesus.

Bottom Line:

- Because of the Resurrection of Jesus, death has been transformed, and so can we.
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Let's get started...

- In the message, the pastor began by asking the question, "If you could know the day of your death, would you want to know it?" Would you? What are your thoughts on this question?

QUESTIONS

1. In this passage, the Apostle Paul says the contents of the gospel are of first importance: Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day rose again. This is central to understanding the gospel of Jesus. In your experience, do you think Christians in general and churches in particular do a good job of "staying on point" with this message? What are some other "messages" Christians and churches sometimes center on other than what Paul stressed as of first importance?
2. Why would Paul stress that Jesus appeared to all kinds of people after his death and resurrection to drive home his point?

3. How should the resurrection of Jesus transform our thinking regarding death? Paul would elsewhere write, "By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also" (1 Corinthians 6:14). Or to put it another way, How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption and resurrection?
4. How does this passage help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? How should it inform everything we do?
5. How does this passage serve as an invitation for us to join God's mission? What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world?
6. How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer?