**4/4/2021**

**The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is Everything!**

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

**Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 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. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.**

**BIG IDEA: THE GOSPEL IS THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST-CAUSED SALVATION WHICH BRINGS GRACE-FUELED TRANSFORMATION.**

According to Paul, the most important truth of the Gospel is that Christ died, Christ was buried, and Christ was raised. This is the core of the Gospel message; without these three things being true, there is no Gospel.

* Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. How important is the resurrection to the Gospel message?
  + Read Matthew 27:62-66 and summarize the measures the chief priests and the Pharisees took to ensure that Christ’s tomb was secure.
  + Now read Acts 2:22-33. In the closing remarks of his first sermon, what does Peter say they (the apostles) were witnesses of?
  + There have always been those who have questioned if Christ was physically raised from the dead. Some have argued that His resurrection was “symbolic” or “spiritual’. How do these passages compare to these arguments? Do they support or deny them? Why does it matter that Christ’s resurrection was an actual, physical resurrection?
* In verse 8 of our passage, Paul calls himself on “untimely born”. According to Randy, the word Paul uses in the verse refers to a birth that violates the normal period of gestation, either by miscarriage or abortion.
  + Why does Paul refer to himself in this way?
  + Of all the apostles, Paul was the most unlikely. The former persecutor of the church became its greatest missionary, and the writer of a majority of what would become the New Testament canon. Paul attributes all of this to the grace of God. What does Paul’s story tell you about God and the kind of people He chooses?
  + Paul’s reputation before Christ did not seem to qualify him to be an apostle. What encouragement or comfort do you find in the statement “but by the grace of God I am what I am”?
* End your time together reading Isaiah 53. Take time to thank God for the grace that has made us what we are in Christ – beloved and free.