

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 15:1-22; 54-58

You've got mail! A letter sent long ago to someone else, now by the power of the Spirit has been forwarded to you, so that you may grow in Jesus Christ.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Someone in the Corinthian church was calling Jesus' resurrection into question. So Paul cited the appearances of the risen Christ that he knew about (vv. 3-8). Which appearances on this list also appear in the gospels, and which are unique to this list? What is the impact of Jesus appearing to more than 500 people at once?
- Do you believe Jesus literally rose from the dead? Why do you or don't you believe - that is, what factors have persuaded you?
- List some of the good things that come from Christianity. Yet in v. 17 Paul says that "If Christ is not raised, your faith is futile." Why would he say that?
- How have you seen those who don't believe in Jesus deal with their own mortality? Knowing Jesus, how do you expect to deal with your own death if you know it is approaching?
- Having written this long chapter on the resurrection, Paul draws conclusions with a "therefore." (v. 58) How does he tell us to respond? How does the resurrection assure that our "labor is not in vain"?

Next week we will start a year-long focus on Matthew, beginning at the beginning.