



# AS WE BUILD...

15:1-16:24

## WE MUST ABOUND IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

With the conclusion of his letter, Paul emphasizes that we must abound in the work of the Lord. Notice...

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

### For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Paul's introduction of a new point in **1 Corinthians 15** begins with a powerful reminder. How would you summarize the message of **15:1-2** in your own words?
- ▶ Why are the details that Paul has delivered in **15:3-8** “of first importance”?
- ▶ “In accordance with the Scriptures” seems to be significant as it's repeated in **15:3-4**. What does Paul intend for us to understand with this phrase?
- ▶ Why do you think Paul highlights the resurrection of Jesus as so vitally important in **15:12-18**?
- ▶ When Paul refers to Christ as “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (**15:20**), what does he mean? What are the implications?

## 1 Corinthians 15:17-26

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

## 1 Corinthians 15:32-33

<sup>32</sup> What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

## 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

## 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

## 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. <sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why would some say what they were saying in **15:32**? Why is that a really, really bad approach to life?
- When Paul talks about those who are "asleep," what does he mean by that? How should that shape our own thinking today?
- In your own words, what will it mean for "the dead" to be "raised imperishable" (**15:52**)?
- "The sting of death is sin" (**15:56**). In what way?
- "The power of sin is the law" (**15:56**). What does this mean?
- How would you rephrase Paul's encouragement in own words?
  - Be steadfast?
  - Immovable?
  - Always abounding in the work of the Lord?
- We are "saints under construction," so what do we need to remember and apply from **15:1-16:24**?