

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **The Debt You Owe (1 Corinthians 15:3)**

Date: **September 24, 2017**

This week as we continue our study of 1 Corinthians 15, we will again look at the gospel of Jesus Christ and will consider how the cross of Christ is central to the gospel message. Christ's finished work on the cross is of first importance. He died as substitute for our sins, paying the penalty that we deserve and bearing God's wrath in our place. A denial of this central truth is a denial of the gospel itself. The cross of Christ and his substitutionary death is at the heart of the Christian faith. In fact, Paul argues that Christ's death was a fulfillment of Old Testament scripture. Paul explains, "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures," (v. 3b). In this week's study we will remind ourselves that Christ's death is the climax of all of Scripture and was necessary for our forgiveness.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 15:3
 - a. Paul preached the gospel that he himself *received* (v. 3) from someone else. Who did he receive it from? Why is this significant?
 - b. How do we know that Paul's gospel message is inerrant? What would you say to someone who tries to refute the authority of Paul's writings by arguing that "Paul was just a man"?
 - c. What does it mean that the gospel is of "first importance"? Can you think of doctrines that would be of first importance because they are central gospel truths? What are some doctrines that are of secondary importance?
 - d. Explain what is meant by *penal substitutionary atonement*. Why is this central to the gospel?
 - e. What does the word "Christ" mean? What does this tell us about who Jesus is?
 - f. Why did Jesus have to die? Why was his death on the cross necessary for our forgiveness?

1 CORINTHIANS CALLED OUT

SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



- g. For whose sins did Christ die? Defend your answer from 1 Corinthians 15:3 as well as other relevant scriptures.
- h. What does Paul mean by “the Scriptures” at the end of verse 3? Why is it significant that Christ died for our sins *in accordance with the Scriptures*?
- i. What is God’s disposition toward sin? Can you give some Old Testament passages that speak to this?
- j. Read Isaiah 53. How does Isaiah 53 relate to 1 Corinthians 15:3? How is Christ’s death in accordance with Isaiah 53?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. If someone stated that Paul’s writings cannot be trusted because Paul is just a human being, how would you refute them? How do we know that Paul’s writings are inerrant (i.e. without error)?
3. Paul passed the gospel on to the Corinthians because it is of first importance. What can you do to practically follow his example and deliver the gospel to others? Can you think of any recent examples of this in your life?
4. Why did Christ have to die on the cross in order for our sins to be forgiven? Why is the substitutionary death of Christ central to the gospel message?
5. Why is it important to regularly remember that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scripture? How does the death of Christ give us power over sin? How does it remind us that we are secure in him?