

LESSON 24: 1 CORINTHIANS 14:13-15:58

Decently and in Order (cont'd)

1. How are the Corinthians “thinking like children” (cf. 13:11)? What does Paul mean when he writes “in regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults” (v. 20; see also Matthew 10:16)?
2. Read the passage from Isaiah that Paul quotes in verse 21. (See Isaiah 28:1-13.) Why is he quoting this passage? What point is he making? What new perspective do these verses teach us concerning the differing purposes of tongues and prophesy (vv. 22-25; see also Acts 2:1-13; Matt. 13:11-16)? Why would visitors to a worship service sense the presence of God, and with what result, if everyone was prophesying rather than speaking in tongues? Indeed, what positive effect might prophecy have on even unbelievers (vv. 24-25)?
3. What restrictions are placed on speaking in tongues in a worship service (vv. 26-28), and on prophesying in a worship service (vv. 29-33)? How would you describe the worship service of the early church, based on these verses? How might we understand and apply these verses in our own context today? What is Paul’s main point in all this (v. 33)?
4. What reasons are given for women to “remain silent in the churches” (vv. 32-35)? In the light of 11:3,5-6, and of our previous discussion concerning those verses, what do you think Paul means by instructing women to remain silent in Church?
5. What then is the underlying principle for Christian worship – indeed for all of the activities of the Church (v. 40)? Why do you think “order” is such an important principle in the context of Christian worship?

Resurrection

1. What are the key points in Paul’s summary of the gospel (vv. 1-8)? Specifically, how are verses 3-5 the core statement of the gospel? What two kinds of evidence are given that Christ has been raised from the dead? Do these verses help you in your witness to others?

2. Define “grace.” How did God’s grace operate in Paul’s life? How does it operate yours? In what ways does Paul’s apostleship rest upon God’s grace (vv. 9-11)?

3. What false teachings and doubts have come into the Corinthian church (v. 12)?

4. There are seven “ifs” through verses 12-19. If there were no resurrection, what would the consequences have been for Christ, for Paul, and for us?

5. What does Christ’s resurrection mean to you? (See also Romans 8:11 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.)

6. Is Paul’s conclusion in verse 19 valid? Why or why not?

7. How will the resurrection of Christ overcome the effects of Adam’s sin, and when (vv. 20-28)? In these verses, what is taught about human history? In verse 22, does Paul mean that everyone is saved, as in “made alive”? Why or why not? Finally, do the words of this passage, especially those in verse 27, offer you any encouragement as you face the world each day?

8. How might Paul live differently if he didn’t believe in the resurrection of the dead (vv. 29-34)? How should your belief in the resurrection affect your lifestyle? Or does the other description in these verses fit you better? An oft-heard phrase among Christians today is “I’m no theologian.” How does theology, or lack of it, affect a believer’s life?

9. What illustrations are offered to show that the resurrection makes good sense and is not illogical (vv. 35-49)? Do you agree?

10. The question in verse 35 is a “how” question. Why does the fact that a person doesn’t necessarily understand “how” sometimes keep that person from belief? (Recall Nicodemus’ response to Jesus, in John 3:4,9.)

11. In verses 35-49, contrast the view toward the physical body of the world in which we live with Christ’s view of the physical body. In what four ways (at least) is the resurrection body different from our present body?

12. List the contrasts between the first Adam and the last Adam. Why can’t flesh and blood inherit the Kingdom of God?

13. Why is it important that there is a “spiritual” body as well as a “natural” body (vv. 44b, 50-55)?

14. If you are weary of this world and long for heaven, what message is there for you in verse 50-58? To what service do you wish to give yourself knowing that “your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (v. 58)?

15. Compare verses 50 and 53. Why does Paul use the imperative “must” (v. 53)?

16. Contrast how the believer and the pagan confront death (vv. 54-57). How is the sting and death now overcome? Why does it still hurt to have someone close to you die?

17. Why is a correct understanding of the resurrection of the dead essential? What happens when your theology in this area is weak?