

1 Corinthians 15:29-34 (February 12, 2023)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

BIBLE PASSAGE STUDY QUESTIONS: READ 1 Corinthians 15:29-34

NOTE REGARDING BAPTISM ON BEHALF OF THE DEAD: “Some interpreters through the centuries have thought this referred to vicarious baptism on behalf of deceased people, probably those who had believed in Christ but had not been baptized before they died. But the interpretation is uncertain, and whatever the practice is, Paul reports it without necessarily approving it, and is clearly not commanding it...the Bible gives no support to the idea that anyone can be saved apart from personal faith in Christ. Other interpreters argue that by ‘the dead’ Paul means the bodies of living Christians, which are subject to death and decay, they are baptized ‘on behalf of their dying bodies’, showing hope that their bodies will rise again. On this view, Paul argues here that the baptism of perishing bodies is useless if the dead are not raised.” (ESV Crossway Study Bible regarding 1 Corinthians 15:19)

1. Although it is unclear what “being baptized on behalf of the dead” meant, what is the point of Paul’s argument in 1 Corinthians 15:12, 29?

2. Review the danger Paul experienced “every hour” (1 Cor. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 1:8-10; 4:8-12). Who may have been the “beasts at Ephesus” (1 Corinthians 15:32; Acts 19:23-42)?

3. From 1 Corinthians 15:30-32 discuss the logic of Paul's second argument regarding the resurrection of the dead. How might Paul have lived differently if he did not believe in resurrection? How does this doctrine impact the way you live your life?

4. "Bad company ruins good morals...do not go on sinning" (1 Corinthians 15:33-34). Recall from your study of the Corinthians why Paul would say this to summarize what has been going on in the church.

5. What is the challenge Paul presents in 1 Corinthians 15:33-34? What is the result of not being "awake" according to Paul? How does this challenge you and how do you stay "awake"?