

DISCUSS

- On the one hand, the Resurrection is orthodox and familiar to a person familiar with church. But on the other hand, it's an outrageous claim. What worldview obstacles does a person need to overcome to come to faith in Jesus?
- Like in Paul's day, there are those who consider themselves Christians but who don't emphasize or believe in the resurrection or saving work of the cross. Are they 'believing in vain'? If so, why? Discuss.
- From your own observations, what seems to be the general local state of churches that have moved away from the centrality of the saving message of the Gospel or scripture? What conclusions do you draw?
- In Revelation 2:4-5, Jesus accuses the Church gathered in Ephesus of having lost their first love. What things are we susceptible of subtly displacing our commitment to Jesus and the message of the cross with?

APPLY

- Attendance at church is often equated with a person's commitment to Jesus. Brainstorm other ways – perhaps more important ways – a commitment to Christ and the Gospel's message of resurrection should be displayed?
- Consider and apply one way this week you can move closer to Jesus.

PRAY

- Pray for revival and boldness in declaring the message of Jesus and his saving work on the cross.
- Ask for God's forgiveness and mercy as a body for areas of unbelief or where we have left Jesus as our first love.
- Continue to pray for a spirit of unity around Jesus to grip all those who call Wellspring home.

Devoted

CHURCH REIMAGINED

3

Week 3: Devoted to the Main Thing

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

OPEN

In our passage, the apostle Paul brings us back to the basics. Paul reminds believers what is core to Christianity and what is "of first importance": passing on the message of Jesus' death and resurrection, according to the Scriptures. Steven Covey famously coined the phrase, 'The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing,' about the need for organizations to keep focused to be effective. For the Church, the main thing is Jesus and his resurrection. When the core of the Gospel becomes forgotten, displaced, or even denied, Paul says we are in danger of having "believed in vain." This week we look at being devoted to "the apostles' teaching" (Acts 2) in being devoted to the message of the cross being the core of what it means to truly be the Church and a follower of Jesus.

REFLECT

- In verse 1, Paul talks about "the gospel." In your own words, how would define or summarize what 'the gospel' is?
- In verse 2, it says, "by this gospel you are saved." Big question: what things does being 'saved' encompass?
- What objective proofs does Paul provide of Jesus' resurrection in this passage?
- Paul talks about his conversion as "one abnormally born" (v.8). What was different about Paul's witness of the resurrection from the others he mentions?