



Of First Importance



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Of First Importance

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

³For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, ⁴that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**, ⁵and that **he appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then **he appeared** to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then **he appeared** to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, **he appeared** also to me.”

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

1st Corinthians 15:1-8; 20-25

1st Corinthians 15:3-4a

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried...

1st Corinthians 15:4b-5

...that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1st Corinthians 15:6-8

Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

D-Group Discussion Guide

1. Christ's ascension is an important, yet often neglected doctrine. Have you ever wondered about the significance of Jesus being taken up into heaven? Why do you think this event is so regularly overlooked?

Read Luke's description of the ascension in **Luke 24:50-52** and **Acts 1:9-11** before discussing the following.

2. Describe the scene in your own words. What details do these passages (*and their broader contexts*) give us concerning Jesus' ascension?
3. How did the Old Testament prepare us for Christ's ascension (**Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13-14; 2nd Kings 2**)?
4. How did Jesus speak of it in John's Gospel (**John 6:62; 14:2, 12; 16:5, 10, 17, 28; 17:5; 20:17**)? Why did Jesus say it was better for Him to go away (**John 14:16; 16:7**)?
5. How is this doctrine connected with Christ's session—being seated at the right hand of God as our Intercessor and Advocate (**Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 7:25; 1st John 2:1; Colossians 3:1-4**)?
6. Why does the ascension matter? What does it mean for us today?



The Commission

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1st Corinthians 15:22-23

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

D-Group Discussion Guide

Read **Matthew 28:18-20**, **Mark 16:15**, **Luke 24:44-49**, **John 20:21**, and **Acts 1:8** before discussing the following.

1. How are these passages alike? How are they different?
2. According to the above Scriptures, how will Christ's commission be carried out? What will we need? What means will the Lord use to bring this to fruition?
3. Discuss specific ways we can fulfill this mission as individual believers, as families, and as a local church.
4. How does having an awareness of Christ's ascension, session, and promised return influence your understanding of His commission? Explain.
5. What motivation and encouragement for this task can be found in the above texts of Scripture? Share something that sticks out to you personally.

