

Study Guide for the Week of July 29, 2007

*This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. **For 2007 the study guide will help you read through the New Testament in a year.** Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.*

Monday, July 30. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-34. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is at the heart of the Christian faith. There were some in the Corinthian church who were teaching that the resurrection was not important. What is Paul's response to that? In light of what Paul is writing here, what is the meaning of the resurrection to you? What is its importance to your faith?

Tuesday, July 31. Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. Paul is teaching that not only was Christ resurrected, but those who trust in him and follow him will also experience a resurrection. Here he is talking about what our resurrection bodies will be like. This can be a difficult passage to picture. Paul's main point is that after death, the followers of Christ will experience new life and that in that new life they will have a new form of existence in heaven with Christ. We should not get tripped up in what our resurrection bodies will be like, but understand that in the afterlife we will have our own identities and an existence in some recognizable "bodily" form. Why is this important?

Wednesday, August 1. Read 1 Corinthians chapter 16. Paul ends this letter with an appeal to help those who are suffering along with some very practical advice and personal greetings. What parts of this last chapter speak to you and your faith journey? What might Paul have written to **you** to encourage you in your faith journey?

Thursday, August 2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:1 to 2:4. Paul begins this second letter to the church in Corinth with words of comfort. He writes as a man who has gone through much suffering, to people who are going through much suffering. What does Paul say was the result of his suffering? Have you found that when you go through a difficult time that it causes you to trust all the more in God? Why or why not? At the end of this section Paul states what he hopes to produce from the letter, what is that?

Friday, August 3. Read 2 Corinthians 2:5 to 3:18. In the beginning of this section Paul writes about the power of the Christian faith. The evidence of this power will be seen as written on the hearts of men and women. Literally, Christ is etched on our hearts as we choose to follow him. Paul is further saying that just like we can judge a craftsman by his work, we can judge a church by the kinds of people it creates. And people outside the Christian faith judge Christ by those people. How do people who are not Christians see Christ in you? How can you be a better carrier of his image?

Saturday, August 4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1 to 5:10. This section is rich with imagery and poetry. What speaks loudest to you? Which words of Paul resonate most clearly to you? Why?

Sunday, August 5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11 to 6:13. In chapter 5 Paul talks about those who follow Jesus being a new creation. What do you think he means by this? Have you experienced a sense of being a new creation as you follow Christ? If not, what would it look like for you to be a new creation? Spend time praying about this, for understanding, for experiencing a sense of being a new creation.