

THE KING'S CROSS

STUDY GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-58

At the great turning point in C.S. Lewis' classic tale, *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe*, Aslan is raised from the dead and invades the castle of the great witch where she has imprisoned her enemies as stone statues. Aslan races through the castle breathing on these statues and awakening them from their cold and stony slumber. The resurrection of Aslan is accompanied by the resurrection of many prisoners of the Witch through the breath of Aslan.

As Paul works his way through to the implications of Jesus' resurrection for the church in the back half of 1 Corinthians 15 we find that he explains the wonderful reality that this resurrection which Jesus enjoyed is promised to fully endow all of Jesus' people one day. He proclaims that we will all be changed. Our perishable existence will be clothed with an imperishable life – better yet, an indestructible life. Our lives which are derived from dirt and flesh will be animated not simply with breath and water, but by God's Spirit. Even more wonderful is Paul's exploration into the stunning reality that this glorious future where God is all in all, and our lives are rich and full and free, has been pushed into the present.

"We are children of the day..." is how he puts it in 1 Thessalonians. In other words, in some very strange sense we have awakened before the final day has dawned. Our standing, laboring, and perseverance is not in vain. We are as those who woke up early, just before dawn. Paul is our brother, sitting anxiously at the window pleading with us not to go back to bed – after all, the sun is just about to come up.

Tonight we explore the precious reality that, while we anticipate the coming day when this body of death is clothed in life and joy and peace, today we enjoy the firstfruits of that coming day.

Read 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-58 aloud together.

- 1) Did anything from the passage / sermon stick out to you – something you liked, disagreed with or didn't understand? Try to summarize the main idea of the passage / sermon.
- 2) How does the fact of bodily resurrection, not just spiritual resurrection, impact the way you understand heaven and hell?
- 3) What characteristics of Christ and God the Father does this text reveal?

This would be a good time to break into smaller groups of guys & girls. After working through the question take some time to pray for each member of your group.

- 4) *Exercise Questions:* Paul pleads with you "to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" even though we have not yet been changed. What keeps you from doing these things?
- 5) John Owen said "Be killing sin or it will be killing you." In what areas of your life do you need to be killing sin?