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Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 48**

Lesson Title: The Resurrection Chapter –
1 Corinthians 15

Take Home Point: Death is turned into victory.

Warm-Up:

Probably few things demonstrate our culture's fear of death more than attempts to cryogenically preserve a body for later "resurrection." The idea of deep-freezing at death in the hope of a future technology that restores life poses significant questions in every area of life – spiritual, physical, moral, mental. Even given the unlikelihood of success, how would "life" be defined in this case? A beating heart? Brain activity? Permanent life support? The underlying assumption is that humans will develop the power to avoid death. Advances in medical technology to overcome diseases and extend life span are given as proof of possibility. But isn't it sad that for so many people, this life is all they have?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Observation (What happened?):

According to Paul, what saves us?

To how many people, at the minimum, did Jesus show himself after his resurrection?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Paul emphasizes "according to the scriptures" as he does?

What does Paul mean when he says Jesus appeared to him "as one abnormally born"?

Insight:

It seems straightforward enough, but for Jesus to come alive again he had to have died in the first place. Unfortunately, there are many ideas receiving attention that attempt to explain what happened without Jesus dying on the cross. One is that Jesus swooned on the cross and was buried alive only to revive in the coolness of the tomb. Another is that it wasn't really Jesus on the cross but a clever substitute, so that Jesus could show himself as alive after the crucifixion. But all of these are Satan-driven denials of hard spiritual realities. The wages of our sin is death. If Jesus didn't die, that penalty is not paid and we are still doomed. But that is only part of what we need. While his death paid the price for our sins, it was his resurrection that destroyed the power of death and frees us to live a life of confidence that we will be alive with God forever in heaven. Both his death and resurrection were required in real physical and spiritual terms to complete the redemptive work that Jesus came to earth to accomplish. The human fear of death can be completely removed from minds and hearts – it is now simply a passage to eternal perfection with our eternally loving, gracious God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know the resurrection is true? What do you tell others?

Take a few minutes to thank God that death has lost any power over you because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ your Savior.

Kingdom Quest year 2