

Sunday, February 6, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
“Hold Firm”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “When was the first time you heard the ‘good news’?”

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Context. This week's reading is the beginning of Paul's lengthy treatment of the idea of resurrection, first of Christ and then of everybody else. He makes the point that the "good news" of the death and resurrection of Jesus was attested first by Scripture, and second, by the experience of Peter (Cephas) and many others, including himself. Paul tells us that he has become a witness and apostle not because of his own worthiness, but only because of God's grace.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- Paul reminds his readers “of the good news” that he proclaimed to them. Work as a group to define “good news.” What makes this news good? What clues does Paul give in this passage about how he understands the “good news”?
- Christians often speak about when they were “saved” or having been “saved.” Here Paul notes that we “are being saved.” Why is the way Paul puts it so important?
- How is thinking about salvation as ongoing reassuring?
- What might be the significance of Paul noting he is the “least of the apostles” (v. 9)?
- How many times does Paul use the word “grace” in verse 10? How does Paul’s emphasis on grace go with his note that he “worked harder than any of them”?
- How is God’s grace the source of empowerment and Paul’s credential for being an apostle?
- What does it mean to hold firmly to Christ? What difference would it make in your life if you were more mindful of God’s grace empowering all you were doing?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Empowering God of the cross and Resurrection, we give thanks that you do not give up on us or leave us alone. We are grateful and amazed that you continue to desire to work in and through your people, so that all might experience the abundant life that comes through you. Help us to hold fast to your grace and love in all that we say and do. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer...

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.