

## **Knowing the power of the resurrection**

Philippians 3: 10 – 14 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### **1) To know Christ is to know the power of his resurrection**

- I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection.
  - To know Christ is to know his resurrection – the two are inseparable.
  - We know a risen Christ
- Jesus didn't just rise from the dead and he doesn't just give the resurrection from the dead – He is the resurrection
  - John 11: 25 – 26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
  - What He was saying is that the resurrection is found in Him and apart from Him there is no resurrection to life
- Paul said, "I want to know Christ"
  - How much do we long to know Jesus?
  - Do we long after him more than anything else?
- Paul desire Christ above everything else
  - Philippians 3: 7 – 9 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.
  - How this contrasts to the Rich young ruler who went away sad when he asked Jesus how he can get eternal life, and Jesus told him to sell all he had, give to the poor, and follow him.
  - He wanted what Jesus could give apart from Jesus and got nothing
  - Paul wanted Jesus more than anything else, and receive all that Jesus has in Himself, including the power of the resurrection
- There can only be power in the resurrection if he rose from the dead, and that did happen
  - 1 Corinthians 15: 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
  - This means that when we have Christ and the power of His resurrection, we are assured that we too will be raised to life
  - This isn't a vague hope, but a certainty.
- For us to partake in his resurrection power Jesus had to first die and rise again
  - John 16: 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
  - It was necessary for Jesus to first die and rise again for us to receive the empowering infilling of the Holy Spirit

## 2) From death to life

- The resurrection life isn't just given to us without us participating in the death of Jesus
  - Philippians 3: 10 ... and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
- For Jesus to attain to the resurrection he had to first die. We don't get the privilege of bypassing death to attain to resurrection life.
  - Galatians 2: 20 For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
  - The resurrection power of God is Christ living in me once I have died to myself, to my sin, to the worldliness around me
- What the resurrection life is not
  - It's not walking through walls, appearing and disappearing from closed rooms, etc.
  - Yes, Jesus did do that with his resurrected body, but we have a taste of resurrection life, we haven't yet received our resurrection bodies. That will happen when Jesus comes to fetch us
  - 1 Corinthians 15: 51 – 52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- What is resurrection life?
  - Victory over sin
    - 1 Corinthians 15: 54 – 57 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Living by the fruit of the Spirit – living out the character of God in our lives
    - Galatians 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
  - Being bold witnesses of the Lord
    - Acts 1: 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

## 3) The persevering power of the resurrection

- God empowers us to persevere to the end
  - Philippians 3: 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
  - If Jesus took hold of me then he'll never let go of me. he'll hold me fast in the palm of his hand until the end.
- His resurrection power sustains us
  - Psalm 55: 22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.
- Sometimes we wonder if we'll make it to the end as we just want to give up due to the trials and difficulties we're enduring in life
  - Don't give up! Lean on his resurrection power to sustain you.
  - Christ in you the hope of glory