

“THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION”

Phil.3:10

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Our text is Phil.3:7-11. Our topic is: “The Power of His Resurrection”
2. Jesus as the risen Lord and Savior of sinners was the very core or heart of apostolic preaching under the Great Commission.
3. Jesus the risen Lord and Savior of sinners is to occupy the same place in present-day preaching.
4. I know of no way to over-emphasize the importance of preaching and believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. In a previous lesson we emphasized, and our topic was, “The Resurrection Of Jesus,” where we examined some of the Bible truths concerning the resurrection of Jesus; such as:
 - a. It was prophesied prior to the fact of it.
 - b. The various recorded evidences of it.
 - c. The fact that it was the final, ultimate, positive proof of his identity and authority.
 - d. It was the very heart of apostolic preaching.
 - e. Some of the vital spiritual things inseparably connected with or dependent upon his resurrection from the dead.
6. In the present lesson our topic is derived from and our attention is to be focused on the expression “the power of his resurrection” found in our text in v.10, where Paul said: “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection...”

II. DISCUSSION

A. OUR TEXT EXAMINED IN CONTEXT.

1. In vv.4-6 Paul mentions things which he identifies in vv.7,8 that had been gain to him or profitable to him in time past; things that for a long time had been his pride and joy; such as:
 - a. The prestige of being one of the Jewish elite.
 - b. The power that comes by being a Pharisee.
 - c. His pride in and the power belonging to him because of his strong Jewish heritage.
 - d. His zeal for and his righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

2. In vv.7,8, he boldly declares he had been willing to suffer the loss of all these things that were gain or profitable, yea, even to count them but dung (dregs, refuse, worthless).
 - a. This is the power Jesus' resurrection had already had on Paul's life.
 - b. This was the result of having seen the risen Lord and being convinced he is the Christ, not the imposter he originally thought him to be.
3. Also, in vv.7,8, he tells why he willingly suffered the loss of all these things that had been gain to him.
 - a. "For Christ," or "on account of Christ."
 - b. "That I may win Christ, and be found in him (united with him), not having mine own righteousness (mine own provisions or means for righteousness. Cf. Rom.10:1-3), which is of the law (Gal.3:10-12), but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith (Rom.10:1-4; Gal.3:6-14,26-29; Rom.1:16,17; Gal.2:16; Rom.3:19-28; 2Cor.3:9), Phil.3:8a, 9.
 - c. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection ...", v.10a.
 - (1) "Know him"
 - (a) Suggests the idea of "know" in the sense of realize, or getting more personal knowledge of the Lord by experience. Cf. vv.8,9; 2Th.1:8
 - (b) It underscores the influence of the one known upon the knower.
 - (2) "And the power of his resurrection" is a reference to his acknowledgment and his ready affirmation of the significance of that historical event in his life in the past, but also as an abiding influence.
 - d. "And the fellowship of his sufferings (the active participation in the sufferings of Christ), being made conformable to his death," v.10b.
 - e. "If by any means I might attain unto (to reach, to arrive at, experience) the resurrection of (from, ASV) the dead," v.11.

- (1) Since all will be raised, both the just and the unjust, Ac.24:15.
 - (2) But since some will be raised unto “life” and others unto “damnation,” Jno.5:28,29.
 - (3) Paul obviously refers here to his desire to attain unto the resurrection unto life, with is available only to those who are in Christ.
3. For emphasis let us dwell further on Paul’s expression “the power of his resurrection” and what he means by it or what he is referring to in his use of it with reference to its influence on his own life.
 - a. The power or force of Christ’s resurrection in its influence on his own inner life, and his service and sacrifice which resulted. Cf. 2Tim.1:9-12; 2:8-10; 4:8-10.
 - b. Its power in confirming his faith in Jesus as the Christ, and his hope of salvation through him.
 4. To understand fully the power of the resurrection in the apostle Paul’s life consider the following four things.
 - a. What he counted loss for Christ, to win Christ, to know him and the power of his resurrection.
 - b. What he did in the service of Christ as an apostle of Christ.
 - c. The things he suffered in the service of Christ both from unbelievers and from unholy brethren.
 - d. His attitude toward what he counted loss for Christ, toward what he did in the service of Christ, and toward the things he suffered in the service of Christ.

B. NOW CONSIDER THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION ON THE ORIGINAL APOSTLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. Prior to and at the first reports of his resurrection among the original apostles
 - a. There was doubt, even unbelief, Mt.16:21-23; Mk.16:9-14.
 - b. There was division, jealousy and petty bickering among them over who would be the greatest in the kingdom, Mt. 18:1-4; Lk.22:24-27; Mt.20:20-28.
 - c. There was indifference among them on the night of his betrayal, Mt.26:36-46.

- d. There were denials of him, Mt.26:69-75; Mk.14:66-72; Lk. 22:54-62; Jno.18:25-27.
- 2. However, after they see – after they witness – the risen Lord, it had such power or influence over their lives:
 - a. That there was no more doubt, division, jealousy or bickering of any kind for positions of greatness in the kingdom among them, no indifference, and no denials.
 - b. On the contrary, it had such powerful influence over their lives that they preached salvation in the name of the risen Lord:
 - (1) Near and far.
 - (2) To friend and foe.
 - (3) Without fear or favor.
 - (4) In season and out of season.
 - (5) Without wavering even one iota.
 - (6) Without compromise, even under threat by powerful officials.
 - (7) Under great persecution and threats of death.
 - (8) To those who believed and obeyed.
 - (9) To others who mocked, rebelled and violently rejected.
 - (10) Even to the point of giving their lives rather than denying him.
- 3. What great power the resurrection of Christ had! It turned this band of doubting, jealous, bickering, divided, denying, self-serving cowards into a band of fearless, united, faithful, self-sacrificing warriors determined to “turn the world upside down” for the risen Lord, and they gave their lives in support of their testimony as witnesses of the risen Lord whom they preached to the entire world, to every creature in one generation!
- 4. Moreover, they had and used miraculous credentials to demonstrate the proof of their claim. Cf. Ac.4:33; 2Cor.12:12.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. We, too, must never count the resurrection of Jesus Christ a trivial thing. And true believers will not! Rev.2:10; 12:11.
- 2. Along with Paul, we need to know him and the power of his resurrection, which power is seen in numerous aspects of his life. For instance:

- a. There is power in his resurrection to prove that he is the Son of God, Rom.1:4.
 - (1) We understand that he is the Son of God by the virgin birth.
 - (2) But there are many skeptics who deny Mary was a virgin.
 - (3) But no other human was involved in his resurrection. Men buried him, but they could not and did not function in his resurrection.
 - (4) Thus the fact is clinched that he is the Son of God; God raised him from the dead, and there is no other way that it could have happened.
 - b. The resurrection shows that Christ had power over Hades, or hell, the unseen realm of the soul.
 - (1) Peter quoted David as saying prophetically: “Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, Neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption,” Ac.2:27.
 - (2) Then in that sermon on Pentecost he emphasizes the importance of that fact in Ac.2:31,32.
 - c. There is power in the resurrection of Christ to destroy death for all mankind, 1Cor.15:25,26.
 - d. By the power of his resurrection he will destroy the devil who has as a part of his power the death of human kind, Heb.2:14,15.
 - e. Through his resurrection he will powerfully show: “Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,” 1Tim.6:15,16; Cf. Rev.1:5,6.
3. What a power his resurrection is. But Jesus did not raise himself. God raised him from the dead (Ac.2:24; 10:40), and by the power of that resurrection, and the risen Lord, he consummated, implemented, and fulfilled his eternal purpose, his plan of human redemption.
 4. There is no one truth that will have greater power over our lives, when properly and firmly believed, than the truth that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and become the Savior of sinners.
 5. It is the foundation and support of Christianity.
 6. In him as the risen Lord, and in no other, is there salvation: for there is no other name under heaven among men, whereby we must be saved, Ac.4:10-12
 7. In him and him alone God has placed all spiritual blessings, Eph.1:3.
 8. Without his resurrection none of this would be possible. What power! The power of his resurrection!