

Morning Sermon October 20, 2019
"Resurrection Running" John 20:1-10

I. *The things of Christ are worthy of our excitement and energy –*

Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. John 20:2-4

1. *Mary ran to Peter and John (the disciple whom Jesus loved)*
2. *Peter and John ran (raced) to the tomb, John arrived first*
3. *Christ is worthy of such efforts – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27*

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- A. *1 Corinthians 9 uses the running, racing, fighting, competing as a metaphor for the kind of, level of effort we should exert into our Christian lives and callings!*
- B. *Part of this for me is preaching*
 - *My first sermon was on 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, I was a runner*
 - *My second was on John 6, the feeding of the 5,000, it almost was NOT*
 - *Sometimes felt like I would rather die than preach*
 - *Now, I want to improve –*

"Preaching deserves the highest excellence because it remains God's chief instrument of reaching a lost world."
John Broadus

C. *Yet, these verses go beyond preaching, they did for Paul :27 and do for me, and for all of you, they speak to our Christian lives, and how we live!*

4. *Are we running, (living, serving, walking, flying) in the power of God?*

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

- A. *It is a power to do what is beyond ourselves –*
 - **But those who wait on the LORD – IMPLIES PRAYER!**
 - **with wings like eagles –**

*"Run, John, run, the law commands
But gives us neither feet nor hands
Far better news the Gospel brings
It bids us fly and gives us wings!"*

John Bunyan, Author of Pilgrim's Progress

- *True resurrection power is POWER to overcome sin – Paul prays for the Ephesians, that they would have such God-given power –*

do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:16-20

5. *Mary, Peter, John, Paul ... few are running on this right path – "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14*

- *Christ says the way to life is difficult*

- *Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress pictures this difficult "way" -*

So I saw in my dream that the man began to run. Now he had not run far from his own door, but his wife and children perceiving it, began to cry after him to return;

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

~ Luke 14:26 ~

but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on, crying, "Life! life! Eternal life!" So he looked not behind him, but fled towards the middle of the plain.

"And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

~ Genesis 19:17 ~

II. *The things of Christ are worthy of our strength and youth and of our old age, empowered by God –*

1. *John who beats Peter to the tomb was a much younger man – So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. John 20:4*

2. *There are many things we can occupy ourselves in our youth but Christ is the best –*

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:1

3. *Even when we are older, we are younger than we will be – Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain; In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim; When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low. Also they are*

afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets. Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

“The Preacher’s poetic view is open to interpretation (vv. 3–5). The ‘keepers of the house’ may well refer to the arms; the ‘strong men’, the legs; the ‘grinders’, the teeth; and the ‘windows’, the eyes (v. 3). Weakened by the infirmities of old age, access to the outside world becomes increasingly impaired (v. 4), and the ‘sound of grinding’—possibly the younger people going about their daily work—is hardly noticeable as the hearing declines (v. 4). Sleep becomes light and fitful, and even the sound of a bird will rouse the elderly (v. 4). The ‘daughters of music’ could refer to the failing function of lungs and voice rendering the old person incapable of joining in the lusty singing of their youth (v. 4).” J. Winter

All of the above can happen as we age, not necessarily in the same way to every person, yet what we have today is likely more than we might have tomorrow –

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7

4. *The difficulties of old age are all the more reason:*

A. *To do as much as you can when you are young –*

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15
We are NOT guaranteed old age!

B. *To depend all the time on God's power –*

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10

For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. Psalm 18:29

They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, Psalm 92:14

Arnold Brevick