

## THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

April 16, 2017

Philippians 3:7-14

**“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” Philippians 3:10**

Paul desired to know “the power of his resurrection.” What is this power, and how does one know it? We explore these questions morning.

This is the power by which a corpse is raised to life. This is divine power, which man cannot understand or measure. It will be exhibited and best known when the redeemed are resurrected.

But Paul yearned to know that power while he lived. One begins to know the power of Christ’s resurrection when he is born again, believing Jesus Christ as the only Savior, and yielding in faith unto Him. All are “by nature children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3), “dead in trespasses and sin” (2:1, 5). But by spiritual birth God “hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved) and hath raised us up together, hath raised us up together” (2:5, 6). This is the resurrection of a dead soul. It is the new birth. God alone has this power.

The desire to know “the power of his resurrection” is itself evidence that one has begun to know that power. The experience excites desires to know more of that power. The more one grows in this experience, the more he yearns to know.

**By the power of Christ’s resurrection, one learns the comfort that affirms, “for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (1:21).** Writing from prison, Paul’s spirit was not imprisoned. Rather, he affirmed, “the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel” (Philippians 1:12). This was the response of John the Baptist as well. Having gained celebrity among the masses, John was imprisoned for decrying the governor’s sin. He would not leave prison alive, but would soon be beheaded. In that circumstance, he said regarding a Jesus, “He must increase, but I must decrease . . . this my joy therefore is fulfilled” (John 3:29, 30). This comfort amid suffering exhibits the power of Christ’s resurrection.

**The power of Christ’s resurrection is experienced increasingly as it cultivates the mind of Christ within the believer** (Philippians 2:3-8). Paul’s and John’s testimonies amid imprisonment exhibited the mind of Christ, “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” (I Peter 2:23). Christ humbled himself, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Such humbling within any man is wrought by the power of the resurrection nurturing the mind of Christ within.

**By the power of Christ’s resurrection, one abandon’s any sense of his own merit, desiring to know only Christ** (Philippians 3:10-14). Paul desired to know Christ, “the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (3:10). He recognized that the only thing of value is “the righteousness which is of God by faith” (3:9). He abandoned all trust in his accomplishments, willing to suffer for Christ’s sake, even unto death, and pressed “toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (3:14).

