

**"Paul's Letter to the Philippians —
'The Witness of the Apostle Paul — Christ's Resurrection Power Changed Me!'"**

Review:

- ***The seven-fold emptying of Christ leads directly in this letter to the seven-fold offering up by Paul. Christ “willingly” offered himself. Paul also did the same, right? The reasons why were different but closely related. Paul writes in this letter that we should do the same!***
- ***Again, the key verse in this entire section (or perhaps even entire letter) is this: Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus . . .***
- ***This leads here in this letter to very practical applications for the Philippians and also to us. But this may seem to be so very far beyond our capabilities that we shy away entirely from these exhortations given by the apostle here. But that would be to ignore the examples here given and the witnesses set before us for our encouragement.***
- ***But the apostle here makes it so clear that to enter into the practical experience that he exhorts we must always remember and be motivated by the seven-fold “emptying” and “glorification” of Christ Himself. This is the constant exhortation of Paul in his letters, that our response to Christ’s great love and its consequence be appropriate to that great sacrifice that was once for all offered on our behalf of us sinners.***

So what had Paul given up for the sake of Christ? What was his witness, his testimony? Everything, he writes here.

- ***Paul’s Witness — Willingly Losing Everything***
 - ***This is the heart of this letter. Paul’s witness as stated here in detail was this: he had, as his lord also had, willingly left behind everything that was of value to him (in his case, of course, of human value, for that was the issue).***

That is most important here. The apostle had willingly given up all that was most important to him for the sake of Christ:

- ***Any of you that have left much behind for the sake of Christ (and I am not referring here to a way of sinful life but far more) know the kind of thing Paul is mentioning now in these verses. This is his life story before all was gladly given over to the Lord, even his own life.***

- *Here he uses the words, “confidence in the flesh”. What is their significance? That apostle’s “exaltation” would be the consequence of his own humbling was surely his expectation. So to understand this we need to know how much the apostle gave up? How much might that have been? This question brings us to our scripture and focus today:*

Our Scripture (Again):

Phil. 3:8-11

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ,
9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:
10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death
11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Our Subject Today: “The Power of His Resurrection”

Our Outline:

- **Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Demand, Great Sacrifice**
- **Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Clear Reality**
- **Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Purity of Motive**
- **Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Renunciation of Self**
- **Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Sharing with the Body**

I. Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Demand, Great Sacrifice:

Phil. 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ

- **Verse 8a - “I count all things but loss ... and do count them [but] dung”:**
Anything and everything that might stand in the way of Christ’s work in and through me. This sounds so absolute and unattainable perhaps. But is it really? That is for each of us believers to carefully consider, right?

- **“The excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus . . .”: *Oh, what it must be like, the apostle writes here, to have this knowledge of Christ. This is very clearly not knowledge of Christ “according to the flesh” [see 2 Cor. 5:16 “Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we [him] no more.” This is rather the knowledge of Christ according to the spirit.]***
- **Verse 8b - “*. . . that I may win Christ*”: *This was Paul’s goal. Is it ours? I would submit to you that very few believers today know anything about this. They may be very religious or worldly and show all the trappings of that, but they are not spiritual. The Philippian believers were apparently well aware of Paul’s testimony in this area. We are far less aware, especially if we are not dwelling his letters . . .***
- ***Paul’s Witness, The Glory of It All: His Life’s Contrasts are to be Ours Too***

Phil. 3:9 . . . and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

 - ***“*. . . and be found in him, no righteousness of the law . . .*”: “In him”, here meaning as he writes, not based on the works of [the] law. Paul was as he has written, or so he thought, “blameless” (verse 6 here in this chapter).***
 - ***This seems to me to be a reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. All will be examined. Paul’s desire is that the righteousness of [the] Law would not be found or discovered. I believe this is a very, very strong statement that we also must take to heart. Do we REALLY understand it? Your thoughts?***

II. Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Clear Reality:

- ***Now we will consider that testimony directly by way of the apostle’s second letter to the Corinthians which is so full of this same subject of the power of God as worked out in Paul. As we go there, please remember what he had written in 1 Cor. 15:45: “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.”:***

[READ] 2 Cor. 4:6-11

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 [We are] troubled on every side, yet not distressed; [we are] perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

- *Sacrificing all, even our own righteousness, is the subject here, for as Paul had learned, our own righteousness will always be of [the] law. This is such a critical thing for us to know and fully grasp and it is so practical.*
- *And, like for Christ himself (and now Paul), our constant motivation must simply be this: “For the joy . . .” Is it?*
- *So, although none of us “would” (or, “could”) ever have written anything like what Paul wrote here. For him it was part of the natural course of his Christ-given ministry, or, as he worded it:*

Phil. 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death
- *This verse summarizes it all: Today we will examine it again, as if we are starting fresh. We should always start fresh with his word of truth so that he might meet our needs through it as spiritual food.*
 - *Let us not take these words out of their context here: “The power of His resurrection”: Don’t take this apart from the following: This is regarding the resurrection power found in our risen savior the life giving spirit you will recall from earlier studies here. This is not the resurrection itself but rather the “power” of his resurrection. This is the life of the spirit of Jesus Christ he has written about in chapter one. This is the knowledge he writes of here. The indwelling Christ suffered and died for each of us — but now we are to willingly enter into these various dimensions of this life and by his*

resurrection power we are to “enjoy” this life as further described here:

- *So our conclusion based upon Paul’s example here is simply this:*
 - *Paul’s example, he writes, ensures us that this path of living above it all is open and available and freely given as part of God’s great gift to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Newness of life is therefore the most natural of responses for us believers.*

But apparently there are conditions for this since not all believers have experienced this power (or so it seems).

- *But, what are the conditions for this. Not all are included. Not all believers exercise this power of the resurrected life in Christ Jesus. WE SHALL CONSIDER THE CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS TODAY.*

III. Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Purity of Motive:

We now need to consider Christ himself again. It is his mind-set or mode of thinking before the incarnation and then as he proceeded to the cross itself is what is critical for our understanding here. The first prerequisite listed here is purity of motive, the very mind-set of Christ.

[READ] Heb. 12:1-2

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- *Again, Christ’s motivation is central here and in this entire letter. The apostle writes here that joy was set before him.*
- *What was this “joy”? This is a question we really must ask. It was surely the joy of being joined together with his “counterpart”, the Body of Christ, for this was planned in eternity past.*

[READ] Eph. 1:2-6

2 Grace [be] to you, and peace, from God our Father, and [from] the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him . . .

in love 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

- *Dwelling here for a long time would be very beneficial. I encourage you to do it often. The plan of God for us goes beyond our salvation, we must see.*
- *It all began with his love for us sinners, verse 4, and ends with our having been “engraced” though the glory of his grace that we might be blessed incomparably “in the [meaning our own personal] beloved. Amen and amen. Can anything be more encouraging than to know this?*

IV. Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Renunciation of Self

- *Life, motive, and not the apostle will turn to the main subject before us today, his power under the fulness of grace, one of his most constant themes in his letters to the Body church.*

[READ] 2 Cor. 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- *So to build a man-made structure on top of these spiritual realities (you know what I mean, right?) is to add works of our own doing to what God has already done. But is this not exactly what is*

happening in Christendom and always has. That truly cancels the working of grace and its power. i/ hope that is clear to you.

- *What, for example, is the so-called “purpose driven life” all about. That is BUT a substitute of our works for the work of the Lord himself in us. They use other words as well for this like “intentional”. Don’t be deceived by the enemy and his devices, as Paul calls them out as well in this letter (see 2:11, “devices”, and 10:5, “thought”, and Col. 2, “will worship”, a related device for sure)*

This theme of Christ’s power working itself out in believers continues so very powerfully in the next chapter:

V. Christ’s Resurrection Power at Work in Paul — Its Sharing with the Body:

The power of Paul’s example, his testimony in this letter is very great indeed. Remember what he wrote about thanksgivings multiplied or about comfort of the Lord multiplied? It is true here as well and this is in some ways even more important than those. For here the subject is the power of God at work in us under grace and its abundance!!

[READ] 2 Cor. 13:2-6.

2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare:

3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

- *We see here that this same power is being shared with us as well, as the apostle implies so very strongly here. It is so humbling to consider it, isn’t it? I still remember the day clearly when I first had these scriptures opened to me. I regret to say that I was not taught these truths in seminary or in a church fellowship, but only through my study of scripture did I finally see these truths so clearly revealed.*

- *Do you see what Paul is saying here?? Today so many in the churches have turned aside from these precious and powerful affirmations of how God is working under grace. Through Paul it was clearly manifested. Will we dwell here or turn aside to works that do not convey true spiritual values? Many in Paul's day had even turned against Paul. This is true today as well. They had sought a "proof" of Christ speaking through Paul. How disrespectful indeed that must have been. Shame!*

Phil. 2:12-13

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.

Paul's Witness: "Christ's Resurrection Power Changed Me!" What about You? Me?