

**"Paul's Letter to the Philippians —  
'The Witness of the Apostle Paul — To Be Found in Him'"**

**Our Outline Last Time:**

- **Paul Learned That Suffering with Christ Was Better Than Deliverance!**

- ***Paul learned that suffering is better than deliverance! What a great truth to learn. Truly, suffering with Christ requires that we learn this essential truth.***

**2 Cor. 11:30** If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

- ***I have always found this experience of the apostle to be so indicative of the workings of Almighty God under grace. Are we not all in the same "school" the apostle Paul was in? Each in our own way, of course, but it is the same school indeed!***

- **Paul Learned That Suffering with Christ Was Indeed His Calling!**

- ***Well, we all know that suffering is one thing. But suffering "with Christ" may be something else altogether.***

***Paul makes this clear in many passages including where in 2 Cor. 4 we recently looked:***

***[REREAD ] 2 Cor. 4:6-7, 10-11***

**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.

**...**

**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 alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

- ***First the suffering and then the glory, the divine principle that is at work in our lives today under the abundance of grace, is powerfully stated here. The Lord had revealed to Paul THAT he would be***

***suffering for his sake. But the dimensions of that suffering and the depths of it were not known in advance — and could not be. And there is that revealing teaching in his letter to the Colossians on this same subject. I think this is the greatest few verses of all on the subject of suffering with Christ:***

***Col. 1:24*** Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church . . .

- ***As we read these words, his challenging words in Philippians come to mind:*** “. . . being made conformable unto His death”:
- ***So we should never forget this Key Question: Will we follow [or imitate] Paul as he imitates Christ, suffering together with him, as he wrote in 1 Corinthians chapter 11?***

***1 Cor. 11:1*** Be ye followers [*lit. “imitators”*] of me, even as I also [am] of Christ.

- ***By the way, there is an important principle revealed here. Paul has been set forth by God Almighty as our example of what imitating Christ is all about. How can we know other wise? We are always today hearing about how we need to ask the question, “what would Christ do here where I am today?” I would guess that so very few know the answer to that question. The reason is that they are not well versed in Paul’s letters.***
- ***Will we joyfully follow after Paul in this endeavor or will we not. That is the question being asked of these Philippian believers here and through this letter also of us. It is one thing for Paul to be a great example. But what about us? Are we great examples for others or not??***
- ***As has been taught here several times before, the present passive participle in verse 10 (“being made conformable”) communicates so well Paul’s certainty that his suffering would be constant and continuing because it was the Lord’s purpose for his life and therefore was also the work of the Lord in his life. Why this was the case is so important and so often not comprehended at all by Bible students. For it has to do with the working out of God’s abundant grace as we joyfully respond to his calling to enter into the same***

**sufferings. Remember, Paul's example was Christ himself and ours is Paul:**

***Phil. 2:5-7***

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, **being in the form of God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him **the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:

- ***One could truly say therefore that Paul's life goal was that his life might faithfully reflect the working out of the very "form of God" in him.***
  - ***But what is the form? Is it not the form of a slave? And what is a slave in Roman times? It is one who has no rights and privileges and may even suffer a death on the cross, something no Romans citizen ever needed to fear.***
  - ***But, in all of these cases it is the same - outwardly reflecting what is true inwardly, and so much more! Slaves accurately reflected outwardly what they really were inwardly. In their hearts, in their spirits, they had no liberty at all. No, none. They were completely at the mercy of their masters. And so it was with our Lord as in his incarnation he had and would continue to submit perfectly to his heavenly father's will. This was the redemptive plan of God being brought to pass in history and the suffering servant, the Lamb of God, would accomplish the task set before him.***
- ***Will you enter gladly into Christ's ongoing suffering? Is so, great glory will be yours. This is a clear promise, isn't it?***

***Take upon yourself the form of a bond-slave and find that his grace is always sufficient, each step of the way, even if those steps lead to a cross. Amen.***

**Our Scripture:**

***Phil. 3:6-11***

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ***[he was very good indeed!!]***

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

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.

***Today: Paul's Witness — To be Found in Him, Gaining Him, and Attaining unto the [Out] Resurrection” as written in Phil. 3:11:*** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

**Today's Outline:**

- ***The Biblical Context of Resurrection is Trans-Dispensational***
- ***Our Resurrection is Distinctive Dispensationally and Unconditionally***
- ***The Culmination of It All — The Resurrection Out from Among Many: Discovering the Meaning of It All***

**I. The Biblical Context of Resurrection is Trans-Dispensational:**

- ***Verse 12: “How say some ...?”***

***1 Cor. 15:12*** Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

- ***The preaching of Christ risen was at the heart of what Paul was preaching to these Gentiles. So, how can that question make any sense at all? Well, what is his teaching on the resurrection of the dead? In his letters this subject is central, of course.***

- ***The order of resurrections is given in that great resurrection chapter in 1 Cor. 15 and the time sequence is clearly revealed there:***

***[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:19-26***

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy [that] shall be destroyed [is] death.

- ***But what about us? Where is the revelation of the Rapture here? Those resurrections seem to be for the Jews and for unbelievers. Christ first and then what had been so often prophesied down through Israel's history. Where is our translation / resurrection here? For that we must read a little further in the chapter for the apostle is not finished with this subject yet.***
- ***Our resurrection [and this teaching is part of the "mystery" revealed only to and though the apostle Paul for us Gentiles, you will recall] is found in verses 51 & 52::***

***[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:51-52***

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- ***You might very well have though that the Rapture was included somehow in those earlier verses. That is what is normally taught b y those that do not see the distinctiveness of the sacred secret revealed to Paul and do not therefore know of the glories of God's grace taught only by the apostle of the Gentiles. But those resurrections were part of Prophecy while ours is revealed in the Mystery or Sacred Secret.***

## **II. Our Resurrection is Distinctive Dispensationally and Unconditionally:**

- ***It is general, unconditional and not specific to just some believers and not others***
  - ***See 1 Thess. 4-5 and every ending in those Thess. Letters. There is never anything there that might make one think that this resurrection / translation (the rapture of the church which***

*is his body) were conditional at all . . . but this “out”-resurrection is conditional clearly.*

- *The Rapture is a guaranteed certainty for all believers who are members of Christ’s heavenly Body. No exceptions at all. There are no “partial” raptures or special ones for the “overcomers”. We will all be together as one. So many seem so confused about this primarily because they are interpreting passages in the gospels and in the book of Revelation to us living today.*
- *But again, this “out”-resurrection is clearly conditional.*

**III. The Culmination of It All — The Resurrection Out from Among Many: Discovering the Meaning of It All:**

**[READ ] Phil. 3:11-15**

11 **If** by any means I might attain unto the [out] resurrection of the dead.

12 **Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect:** but I follow after, **if that I may apprehend** that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, **I count not myself to have apprehended:** but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and **if** in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

- *There a number of things here that must be considered in seeking to discover the meaning if this verse:*
  - *Note here first of all the unique use of the word “out”-resurrection! What may be its meaning and why use such a distinctive word here if not to reveal a completely distinctive teaching on “resurrection”.*
  - *Not also the several “if”s here. They are critical to the teaching as one might of course expect.*
  - *Then there is the use of the word “perfect”.*
  - *And the entire race context - not all are winners in a race*
  - *This is truly a great verse indeed: verse 12 and verse 13 follows . . .*

- *To discover the meaning of this we need to look at the context of this carefully, especially what was written in the verses before this:*

***Phil. 3:6-11***

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; **touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

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.

- *The context here now as always is critically important in understanding Paul's teaching here.*
  - *Firstly, verses 8 - 11 are all one sentence! So there is only one thought here, only one!*
  - *"Counting all things loss" is in the present tense, while "winning Christ" is pointing towards a future day. The one precedes the other necessarily in Paul's thinking.*
  - *Verse 9, "being found in him" is linked to that future day. This verse gives the details: "found in him NOT having mine own righteousness", a righteousness that is "of [the] law or of works of law. The apostle is greatly desiring the future day of judgment, the Judgment Day of Christ, and specifically that nothing will be discovered that is based on works. No, nothing at all! SO ALL THINGS OF THAT SORT MUST BE CAST OFF. Those were what were listed earlier, namely, everything that he had previously been resting in. Everything.*
  - *I really should add that the apostle is here not referring to "good" works as opposed to "sins". This is not an issue of morality at all here. That is far from his mind as he writes these words. He is presuming morality. The issue is what kind of fruit is displayed in our lives. And that is dependent on motive, a word we might not like to consider here for it opens*

*up much discussions and possible tribulation of soul. Pureness of motive was, however, our subject as we began this section earlier in chapter 2. Remember that, the exhortation to have the same mind-set as Christ Jesus while still in heaven's glory? Amen.*

- *Well, Paul left so much behind in his quest to “gain Christ”. What was to replace all of that? It is “that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” What a difference that would be. He further explains that by the words we have been carefully considering: “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death”.*
- *Conclusion: The one requires the other. Being found at that day without one's own righteousness (that which is according to law) requires being “made conformable unto his death”. That is the bottom line, isn't it?*
- *What is the out-resurrection then? It is simply this: to be found at the Judgment Seat of Christ to have ONLY the righteousness of Christ, without legal works of any kind. Many believers will not be found in that way, he implies. **THAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE OF THIS TEACHING.***
- *The apostle calls this “winning Christ”. Here he has renewed the illustration from the games where running was a central focus. Though we have all “won” Christ in one sense that we are so well aware of here in this group, he writes here of “winning Christ” in another sense altogether. **WHEN THE RACE IS OVER, HE WRITES, HIS DESIRE IS THAT HE WOULD:***

***Phil. 3:9-11***

***9 . . . be found [discovered to be] 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.***



**WILL WE FOLLOW PAUL AS HE FOLLOWS CHRIST? THIS MEANS TO HAVE THE MIND-SET OF CHRIST JESUS AS HE LEFT HEAVEN'S GLORIES, WILLINGLY GIVING UP ALL THAT WAS RIGHTLY HIS. IT MEANS NOT WORKING ACCORDING TO THE LAW OR EVEN SOME LAW, BUT IN DIRECT FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR LORD JESUS, EVEN SHARING IN HIS SUFFERINGS AND CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH. INDEED, CHRIST RESURRECTION LIFE WILL BE OURS EACH STEP OF THAT JOURNEY. AMEN AND AMEN. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.**

**ARE WE WILLING TO WALK THAT WALK?**