



## Sermon- Practicing the Resurrection (I Want to Know Him Like That)

Preached at Cloverdale 7/28/2024

Phillipians 3:8-11

**<sup>8</sup>Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**

Background: Paul continues writing to the church of the Phillipians. In this chapter, he writes to caution them against false teachers and doctrines which were trying to seduce them to add physical ordinances to their spiritual application of Christ in their lives. Paul says he has put those things behind him, his past, his previous self-righteousness through works so that he might gain Christ. Let's look deeper at two key aspects of this portion of his letter.

Excellent knowledge of Christ is important. To gain Christ, you have to know him. Who is Christ? He is Lord.

While the religious trimmings surrounding him may be fine, if they hinder the true knowledge of him, then they become a distraction to the spiritual awareness and application of having him as our Lord. Your church traditions might get in the way of you truly having excellent knowledge of Christ.

While works are important and expected in our Christian journey, there is a proper spiritual sequence. Faith must come before the works and not the other way around. Works in front of faith is a real spiritual problem for the church and Christians. Works without faith produces self-righteousness, which ignites pride, which knocks us completely out of alignment with a spiritual God.

Being in right standing with God is by faith. My faith is my belief in who He is and what He desires for me. My faith in Christ who loves me and died for me is the way to right standing with God. The more I learn the truth about Christ, the more of him I receive in my life and the more dominion he has. The works I do are ignited out of my relationship and love for Christ. I put in that work because I know Him.

Christ indeed is the way, the truth, and the life. So, it is important, that our works not replace or come in front of faith.

I used to work for my dad. But I really didn't have "excellent" knowledge of him and what he did for me. I wanted to be right with him through my works and achievement. I wasn't trying to have a close connection with him or truly understand him because I figured my cutting his grass and getting good grades was good enough....that's a works relationship. But when I really learned more about him and recognized what he did for me and how he really loved me and desired a relationship with me....things



changed. The relationship changed. I appreciated him more despite his faults. The works that came behind this were greater, easier, more fun, more purposeful, more joyful and cheerful. Because the works came after my love for him and not before.

The second aspect I want to cover is to experience him based upon my increasing knowledge of him. In other words, I know him, but I want to know him like this and like that.

**<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

I want to know him and experience the power of his resurrection in my life. How can I experience the power of the resurrection in my life and circumstances?

- You have to die first. You have to pick up your cross. It is recognizing that you need Jesus. It is knowing that we can't make it without Him. Being conformed to His death is to also nail our self, our pride, or efforts, or plans, even our works in the flesh to the cross.
- Second, what was nailed to the cross, i.e., your past mistakes, fears, doubts, unforgiveness, etc., put all of those things of who you used to be and how you used to be and how you used to think, and how you used to handle your business....in the grave. Put all these things behind you.
- It is having a funeral for your past and who you used to be. Having a memorial service for all the sins, mistakes and heartbreak you faced. Bury all of that old you.
- Then start to rest in the hope that comes from trusting in Jesus. The new hope and life in the promise that God is able to pick you up and give you new life.

This is the resurrection from dead works and a dead past. There is a right now spiritual application of this resurrection that Paul wants to enjoy and experience now. There is also a physical and future resurrection that will occur in our bodies.

So, I practice the resurrection spiritually in my mind and life now by faith. Living and experiencing the resurrection daily in my life, gives me the confidence that when I die physically, the same process is at work and just like Christ, I'll rise again. So, I'm practicing and living in the resurrection today, so I can also receive the full manifestation when I die.

Knowing something intellectually and experiencing something are two different types of knowledge. There are different levels of knowledge, and I want to reach another, deeper understanding of Christ.

- Job 19:25-26. I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. See Romans 8:17.

#### **That I may know him like that**

- Not just know about him, intimately know him. I want to experience His resurrection power. But how do I experience this power? Do I have to wait to die before I experience it? The good news of the Gospel is you can experience it now. Today! You don't have to wait.



- Next, God will fill you up with the Promise of the Holy Spirit and give you a new power source that shows you how to walk and live your new life. Through the Holy Spirit, you will receive and experience the power of His resurrection today. You don't have to wait for your funeral to experience new life after death.

But I don't have to wait. I can know Him like that now. I can both know and experience His resurrection power. I know because I've been practicing and using this resurrection power.

- When the doctor's report isn't good, but that doesn't mess up your day.
- When someone tells me I'm done, but you have the power to proclaim, I'm just getting started.
- When life has me down, I have a Rocky Balboa moment, I ain't heard no bell yet.
- This ain't over, the fat lady is on a diet; you can stick a fork in me but I ain't close to being done.
- You can be between a rock and a hard place, but if he moved a rock so Lazarus could come forth, He gives me the power to get up again too.
- It is His power that releases my praise in the middle of the storm and in the midst of sorrow.
- I may be down for a moment, but I can't stay down because I have his power. I have been practicing.

I don't have to wait for my funeral to experience his power. I can know him and his power now. I can practice it now. I can enjoy it right now. I have victory now. I can get up from the heartbreak now. I can experience His peace now.

If you are not experiencing this kind of power in your walk. If you know Jesus, but you don't know him like this. What are you waiting for? You can start practicing resurrection power...you can know Him like this. The same power that can calm the storm, speak to a situation and create peace, raise the dead, and lead a thief on the cross to have everlasting life, is the same power that he wants us to have. Is it in you?

Even nature declares there is resurrection power. If a caterpillar can experience new life, if a dead seed can go into a cold ground and produce new life, don't you know we are so much more important than these. We will rise again...it is part of the plan.

Don't get caught up on religious traditions, get more involved in knowing who Christ is. Follow the steps.