

Easter

A passage that I found myself lead to as I was praying about a message for us on Easter is Philippians 3:8-10.

- a. **Philippians 3:8-10 (NASB95)** 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

i. **Knowing** – gnōsis (gno'-sis)

1. More than an intellectual (head) knowledge of Christ, but refers to a more intimate, experiential knowledge not a passing acquaintance.
2. To know someone deeply and intimately.

- b. The idea of moving past an acquaintance level of knowledge of Jesus Christ is a principal for us in scripture:

i. **2 Peter 3:18 (NASB95)** but grow in the grace and knowledge (*gnōsis*) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- c. Growing intimately in our relationship with Jesus Christ is vital in our sanctification journey as believers.
- d. Paul shows us that one part of knowing Christ in this way is to know the power of His resurrection.

i. **Philippians 3:10 (NASB95)** 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

1. I find myself intrigued by this comment from Paul. Knowing Christ but specifically knowing the power of Christ's resurrection.

a. **Power** – dynamis (doo'-nam-is)

- i. inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth
- ii. the power which the resurrection of Christ has, for instructing, reforming, elevating, tranquilizing (make calm or still), the soul

2. Our time this morning is going to be spent looking at scripture and allowing it to instruct, reform, elevate and still our souls as we dive into this idea that the Holy Spirit presents through Paul of growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ by learning about the power of His resurrection.

II. **Evidence** - The power of His resurrection is in part practical.

- a. The plane where you and I's salvation was won is not the physical one. It was the spiritual one. It was in a tabernacle in heaven when Jesus Christ presented His blood to His Father in the Holy of Holies.
- b. If the plane that Jesus won our salvation on is spiritual then how do we know He won it? The Resurrection!

- c. Knowing our limitations as humans God provided physical evidence.
- d. **Luke 24:1-3 (NASB95)** 1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
 - i. Why was the stone rolled away? It wasn't so Jesus could get out of the tomb. Jesus could walk through walls at this point.
 - ii. It was so his disciples would go in and investigate and see that He wasn't there.
 - iii. What did they find when they went in?
- e. **Luke 24:3-12 (NASB95)** 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, 7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." 8 And they remembered His words, 9 and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. 11 But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.
 - i. Peter is marveling at this, why? Because Jesus' body isn't there but it's also because the linen wrappings are there and he notices something else:
 - 1. **John 20:3-10 (NASB95)** 3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. 4 The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes.
 - ii. This is not making any sense to Peter. In Peter's mind someone has stolen the body. This is part of the significance of the linen wrappings.
 - 1. If someone was going to steal the body why take the linen wrappings off? Remember Lazarus? He needed help to get those wrappings off.
 - a. **John 11:43-44 (NASB95)** 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

2. Additionally why take the time to roll the face cloth up and place it to the side?
 3. With all the attention that protecting Jesus' body had received whomever was going to steal the body would've done it quickly. They certainly wouldn't have taken the time needed to remove the wrappings and then neatly roll up the face covering.
 4. Why then are the linen wrappings such a big deal? Because the conclusion that a person would have to eventually come to is either someone went to great lengths to look like Jesus had come back from the dead or He really had.
- f. **Luke 24:36-43 (NASB95)** 36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them.
- i. Why did He do this?
1. To provide proof that He had done what He said He was going to do.
 2. To provide proof that He was who He said He was.
 3. So that these people would be witnesses.
 - a. **Luke 24:44-48 (NASB95)** 44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things.
 - i. **Acts 1:3 (NASB95)** To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
 4. We see that it was for physical evidence but we can also understand it was for another reason as well.
 - a. God's plan didn't have to include Jesus coming back and spending 40 days with this group.
 - b. Jesus spent that much time with them because of His desire for relationship, discipleship and encouragement.
- g. The power of His resurrection is more than physical proof though. It's beyond creating witnesses and providing encouragement.

III. **Spiritual** - Jesus resurrection was going to completely redefine man's spiritual experience with Him.

- a. **John 16:7 (NASB95)** “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
- b. **John 14:16-17 (NASB95)** 16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.
 - i. That “will be in you” changed everything. Prior to Jesus’ death and resurrection the Holy Spirit interacted with man as Jesus mentioned here. He abided or was with man and interacted and aided man but He was not within man.
- c. The Old Testament saints interacted with Him in a much different way. The Holy Spirit would come and go from residing inside of them:
 - i. **Psalms 51:11 (NASB95)** Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
- d. In the OT God dwelled with man in the form of the tabernacle or temple. Jesus’ death and resurrection completely changed this reality. After Jesus’ death and resurrection God still dwelled with man in the temple, what changed though, was where that temple was located. The temple now became you and I. Now the Holy Spirit would reside inside of us.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB95)** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 6:19 (NASB95)** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- e. Jesus’ resurrection brought a completely new creation into existence.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB95)** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- f. Don’t just think of this in terms of you being a new creature simply as it relates to a new way of walking with Christ, it’s bigger than that.
 - i. **Galatians 3:28 (NASB95)** 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- g. You and I have the privilege of being placed into His new creation. That creation is His bride the Church.
 - i. You are no longer a servant but now a child, a son, a daughter.
 - ii. The church came into existence because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit back to be in us not just with us.
- h. We have now been allowed to commune with Him in a way that had not been possible before.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (NASB95)** 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God

no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

- i. We are allowed to walk with Him in a way that wasn't possible previously.
 - i. **Romans 6:4 (NASB95)** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
 - a. **Newness of life** – kainotēs (kahee-not'-ace) - in the new state of life in which the Holy Spirit places us so as to produce a new state.
 - 2. Do you realize that you are living during a time that is the most unique and special for the believer? You are living during the church age, during the age of grace. If you were chosen by God to live during this time what a privilege!
 - a. **Ephesians 4:1 (NASB95)** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

IV. Resurrection Power – Jesus The King of all Kings

- a. There are two kinds of power that exists to bring someone back from the dead.
 - i. Resuscitation power is a power that God has allowed man to have access to. We see that Paul and Peter used in scripture, it's the power that Jesus accessed when He brought Lazarus back from the dead.
 - ii. This is not resurrection power though.
 - iii. Resurrection is being brought back to life only to never die again.
 - 1. **Acts 2:24 (NASB95)** “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.
 - a. **Putting an end** – lyō (loo'-o) - to loosen, undo, dissolve
 - iv. What kind of power must it take to bring someone to back to a life where they will never die (resurrection) again? It is a power that resides only within the Godhead:
 - a. **Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)** 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.
 - 2. Jesus spoke of having it:
 - a. **John 10:17-18 (NASB95)** 17 “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

3. We learn that the Spirit has it:

a. **Romans 1:4 (NLT)** and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. Satan does not have this power. Satan's power is through death. He introduced death when Adam and Eve sinned and he has maintained that power to present day.

a. **Hebrews 2:14 (NASB95)** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

5. Jesus defeated that power:

a. **Romans 6:9 (NLT)** We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

6. Jesus defeated and took that power from Satan. Keys to death and hades.

a. **Revelation 1:17-18 (NASB95)** 17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

i. **Keys** – kleis (klice) - the power to bring back into life from Hades and to leave there

b. Because Jesus has been raised from the dead: We have hope! Why?

i. Because it means He is who He claimed to be:

1. **Romans 1:4 (NLT)** and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

c. Because Jesus is who He claimed to be then we know His promises are true! What are some of those promises?

i. You and I have a future with Him:

1. **John 14:3 (NASB95)** "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

ii. He has secured an inheritance for us:

1. **1 Peter 1:3-5 (NLT)** 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, 4 and we have a priceless inheritance--an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until

you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

iii. We will live forever:

1. **John 14:19 (NASB95)** "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

d. Because He is who He claimed to be we know that everyone will someday know this fact to be true.

1. **Revelation 1:7-8 (NASB95)** 7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

ii. All of creation will acknowledge that He is the One True King.

1. **Philippians 2:9-10 (NASB95)** 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

iii. John was given the opportunity to see that day:

1. **Revelation 5:1-14 (NASB95)** 1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; 5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom

and might and honor and glory and blessing.” 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

- a. We see the cross through the slain lamb.
 - b. We also see the Lion. The Lion can be revealed because of the resurrection.
 - c. The cross is the vehicle that has lead to our hope.
 - d. His blood being poured out for us is the means of securing our redemption.
 - e. The cross and His blood being spilled are meaningless unless He was worthy. Because He was and is worthy that cross and His blood have meaning, because He is worthy He could be resurrected.
 - f. And the power of His resurrection changed everything.
- e. **1 Corinthians 15:24-26,54-58 (NASB95)** 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death...54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 55 “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- f. **Acts 17:31 (NLT)** For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”