

# *The Power Of His Resurrection*

Philippians 3:10

Text: **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).**

Thesis: To discuss the power of the resurrection of Christ!

## Introduction:

1. Many people are going to be gathered around the world today to hear a sermon about the resurrection of Christ.
  - a. Some of these people will not attend services until Easter of next year.
  - b. Most people like this gather because they have been taught error about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. At the Hollywood Road church of Christ, we do not celebrate Easter as the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. This causes a lot of friction sometimes with family, friends, and even members of the church at times.
4. Sometimes we have even been accused of not believing in the resurrection of Christ.
  - a. That is not true.
  - b. If there was no resurrection, there is no point in being here today.
5. There may be some here today who have never heard the truth about the resurrection.
  - a. Just because the world teaches error about the resurrection of Jesus Christ does not mean we should not preach and teach on it.
  - b. That is what we will do today.
6. The apostle Paul described the resurrection of Jesus Christ as being powerful: **“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).**
7. Why did Paul mention the resurrection of Jesus Christ as being powerful?
  - a. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is powerful because it really happened.
  - b. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is powerful because it was necessary.
  - c. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is powerful because it is remembered.
8. The resurrection of Christ is the keystone of Christian faith!
9. Without it everything in Christianity would be useless and meaningless.

## Discussion:

### **I. THE RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPENED**

- A. The evidence that the resurrection really happened is overwhelming (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all recorded it).
  1. **(Matthew 27:12-66; Matthew 28:1-17).**
  2. **(Mark 16:1-14).**
  3. **(Luke 23:50-56; Luke 24:1-46).**
  4. **(John 20:1-29).**
- B. Not only does the New Testament reveal evidence about the resurrection of Christ, but the Old Testament also does.
  1. **“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10).**
  2. We can know for a fact that this was talking about Christ because Peter quoted it in his sermon at Pentecost **(Acts 2:29-31).**

- C. There were also many witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus.
1. On that first Sunday morning when he was risen Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother James went to the tomb **(Matthew 28:1)**.
    - a. There had been an earth quake and an angel of the Lord rolled back the stone from the door and showed them an empty grave **(Matthew 28:2)**.
    - b. As they returned to tell the other Disciples, Jesus met them saying, "**All hail, or rejoice** (ASV)", and they came and took hold of his feet and worshiped Him **(Matthew 28:1-10)**.
  2. Jesus also appeared to Peter the afternoon of the resurrection day **(Luke 24:34)**.
  3. Jesus also appeared to all the apostles, except Thomas, on the resurrection evening **(John 20:19-25)**.
  4. A week later, Jesus appeared to the apostles again. Thomas was told, "**Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side. And be not faithless, but believing**" (John 20:27). (Read 27-31)
  5. Paul tells us that on one occasion Jesus was seen by over 500 brethren at once **(1 Corinthians 15:1-9)**.
    - a. All these witnesses saw Him after his resurrection.
    - b. They saw him eat food as He had before.
    - c. They saw the wounds of His crucifixion.
    - d. They heard his voice as He talked with him.
    - e. They felt His body and His wounds.
    - f. They saw Jesus alive after He was raised from the dead.
- D. What do men today say about the resurrection?
1. They say it did not happen!
    - a. There is a group of people who came up with a theory called the "Swoon Theory."
    - b. This is what the theory says. **"He had just fainted, or was unconscious. He was placed in the tomb though he was not dead. In the coolness of the grave and the healing effect of the spices wrapped around his body he revived consciousness. He rolled the stone away, slipped out past the guards and went to the disciples. They nursed him back to health and presented him as the risen Lord. Forty days later his wounds got the better of Him. Just before he died he assembled the disciples and parted from them by walking into a cloud. Though he was crawling off to die, the Eleven believed he had ascended into heaven."**
  2. What is the answer to this theory?
    - a. The Roman soldiers said that Jesus was dead **(John 19:31-34)**.
    - b. Those who buried him knew he was dead.
      - (1) They would have noticed if there was any sign of life!
      - (2) Truth is, He was dead!!
    - c. He had been beaten!
    - d. He had been nailed to a cross!
    - e. His side was pierced with a Roman sword!
    - f. He did not faint, He died!
  3. If Christ had only fainted on the cross and then was revived in the coolness of the tomb, how does one account for Him being in His weakened condition moving a stone from the inside that weighed approximately 1 ½ tons without anyone noticing? There were soldiers guarding the tomb.

4. If the swoon theory is true:
  - a. If Jesus did not die on the cross, when did He die?
  - b. What happened to Him?
  - c. Would Jesus's enemies have ever quit trying to kill Him?
  - d. Wouldn't there be some kind of documentation to prove that Jesus really didn't die?
  - e. Were Paul, Peter, John, Jude, Barnabas, Apollos, and James all teaching lies?
  
- E. The resurrection of Jesus is real and authentic we know because of the Day of Pentecost:
  1. If the body of Christ had been stolen by His friends they would not have preached, lived and died as they did for a dead Savior!
  2. If the body had been stolen by the enemies, it would have been presented by on the day of Pentecost when Peter said Jesus had risen and was at God's right hand!
  3. If the friends did not steal it, and if the enemies did not steal it, there is only one option – He actually arose!!!!

## II. THE RESURRECTION IS REMEMBERED

- A. We remember the resurrection through the plan of salvation.
  1. Belief is based upon the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead (**Romans 10:9-10**).
  2. Faith in the resurrection motivates our repentance (**Acts 17:30-31**).
    - a. God commands all to repent to be ready for the Day of Judgement.
    - b. We are assured of this because of the resurrection.
  3. We are not ashamed to admit that we believe Jesus was raised from the dead (**Romans 10:9-10**).
  4. Baptism is based off the resurrection.
    - a. **Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4).**
    - b. **The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21).**
  
- B. So we must ask the question, "What about Easter?"
  1. The word "Easter" is found only one time in the King James Version of the Bible (**Acts 12:4**).
  2. The word translated as "Easter" is found twenty nine times in the New Testament.
    - a. Every other time it is translated correctly as "Passover."
    - b. **"Perhaps there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd, translation than that in our text" (Adam Clarke).**
  3. The religious world today is observing the resurrection, but there is no authority in the New Testament for an annual observance.
  4. So when are we commanded to observe the resurrection?
  5. The answer is every week!!
    - a. **"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7).**
    - b. **"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (2 Corinthians 11:26).**

6. The partaking of the Lord's Supper is to remember the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
7. We observe this Lord's Supper weekly as a reminder of this resurrection.

### **III. THE RESURRECTION WAS NECESSARY**

- A. The scriptures teach the necessity.
  1. *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).*
  2. These verses teach that the Gospel includes the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ.
    - a. If there was no death, burial and resurrection then we have no gospel message.
    - b. I don't have a job anymore, because there is nothing to preach.
  3. *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that **form of doctrine** which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Rom 6:16-18)*
    - a. "Form" - pattern or type or mold
    - b. "Doctrine" - death, burial and resurrection of Christ
    - c. Obedience to the Gospel means dying to my self, being buried in water, rising spiritually to be a child of God in the likeness of His resurrection!
- B. If Christ was not raised...
  1. My preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain - **(v. 14).**
  2. We are all false witnesses **(v. 15).**
  3. We are all still in our sins **(v. 17).**
  4. All of those who have gone on before us are perished **(v. 18).**
  5. We would all be miserable **(v. 19).**
  6. To put it in short, there would be no more reason to live.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. We did not see Christ after he was raised from the grave.
  - a. But we believe in it just as strongly as the ones who saw him with their own eyes.
  - b. Jesus said **"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"** (John 20:29).
    - i. We believe because we have Faith!
    - ii. We believe because we trust in the accounts!!
    - iii. We believe the reports of eye witnesses.
2. We led off this morning talking about the power in the resurrection.
  - a. The resurrection is the central point of the Gospel.
  - b. Without the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus from the dead there can be no Christianity.
  - c. Because there was a resurrection of Jesus we believe there will be another great resurrection day.
3. To be in the resurrection, we must first be in Christ!
  - a. We do this through faith **(Romans 10:17).**
  - b. We do this through belief **(John 8:24).**
  - c. We do this through repentance **(Luke 13:3, 5).**
  - d. We do this through confessing Christ as the resurrected Savior **(Romans 10:10).**
  - e. We do this through being baptized into Christ **(Galatians 3:27).**
4. After this, we must be faithful unto the end and we will be resurrected! **(Revelation 2:10).**