

## **The Power Of Christ's Resurrection**

### **Introduction**

The apostle Paul received tremendous revelations of divine truth. He had been blessed with exceptional spiritual experiences such as being caught up into the third heaven. Yet, after years of walking with God, he longed to understand better the power of Christ's resurrection (Philippians 3:10). How much more do Christians today need to pray as Paul did!

### **Message**

#### **1. Results in the believer's justification.**

- a. Christ was crucified for our offenses and raised for our justification (Romans 4:25). This was foretold in the Old Testament (Isaiah 53:6–11) and illustrated by the ceremony of the scapegoat (Leviticus 16:7–10,15–22).
- b. If Christ had not been resurrected, all people would still be in their sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). The Resurrection indicated that the sacrifice of Christ on the cross completely satisfied the demands of God's justice. The Resurrection is the assurance of the believer's salvation (Romans 10:9).

#### **2. Provides power for victorious living.**

- a. Believers, apart from divine enablement, cannot live victoriously (Romans 7:18–24). For this reason God provides the strength to overcome weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9,10).
- b. Paul prayed that the Ephesian Christians might understand that the same extraordinary power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in and through believers (Ephesians 1:19,20). Because of this power, believers can, in spite of adversity, be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Paul's life was an illustration of this (1 Corinthians 15:30–32).

#### **3. Guarantees resurrection of believers.**

- a. Like the first sheaf of the harvest given to the Lord as a token that the entire harvest belonged to Him (Leviticus 23:10–20), Christ's resurrection is the token or guarantee of the resurrection of all believers (1 Corinthians 15:20–23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).
- b. In the resurrection, believers will have bodies like Christ's glorified body (1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:1,2). Christ's post-resurrection appearances hint at what our resurrection bodies will be like. They will be recognizable (1 Corinthians 13:12) and yet as different as a kernel of planted corn is from the stalk that follows (see 1 Corinthians 15:35–38).

### **Conclusion**

Because of Christ's resurrection, believers have hope not only in this life, but also in the life to come (1 Corinthians 15:19; 1 Timothy 4:8).

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