

**Philippians 3: 7-11; “The Power of His Resurrection”, A Devotional given by  
Pastor Paul Rendall at our church’s Easter Sunday Brunch,  
on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**Read Philippians 3: 7-11** (King James Version) – “Philippians 3:7-11 – “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.

We rejoice together today in the power of the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord; knowing that it is this same power that is really at work in our lives if we have come to know Him. His Holy Spirit was given to us when we first believed. And each Christian should understand that God is in the process of changing them and transforming them into Christ’s image and likeness day by day, so that we might become more like Him, and thus glorify God. That is what is called – our sanctification. But in order to make real progress in holiness Paul now speaks about something which builds off of that glorious reality of the Spirit’s indwelling; that is, that there is an excellency in knowing Christ which goes beyond the excellence of any other thing in this world and this life. You are being brought to that blessed state where you as a Christian see that it is important for you to strive to win Christ.

You already have Christ, but you would win Him. You want to strive to win Him in order that you might know Him better, and receive the best and highest of blessings which can come to you if you have a sincere love and obedience to Him because of all that He has done for you. It will be because you love Him pre-eminently, over every earthly person and thing that you will strive to win Him. When you are striving like this, you are striving to come to have the full assurance of salvation and not simply to profess Christ. In order to win Christ you must come to realize the excellency of knowing Christ as the primary thing in your life, and once you have won Him in this singular way that we are taking about, you will in your experience come to realize in a more tangible way, the power of His resurrection in all of your efforts to glorify God. So for just a few minutes I want to speak to you about how you might win Christ and come to know in a greater sense the power of His resurrection in your heart and life. 2 phrases I want you to focus on. “Counting all things but loss for the excellency of knowing Christ”, and “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection”.

**1<sup>st</sup> - To count all things but loss for the excellency of knowing Christ.**

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” “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.” The things that Paul thought were gain to him, he counted loss for the sake of Christ. These were his former religious privileges and his supposedly having a righteous moral character. He was actually a self-righteous Pharisee. He thought that it was by his ceremonial and outwardly religious works that He could find favor with God. He was circumcised, and a “Hebrew of the Hebrews”. He was a Pharisee who thought that he understood the Old Testament Scriptures. He thought that he was blameless in relation to God’s law, and He was zealous for the traditions of the fathers of Judaism. He was a zealous persecutor of Christians. All of these things had brought to him the strange, but false assurance that he somehow knew God. But, of course, he did not, for he did not know Christ. These religious pursuits had been “gain” to him in the sense that he became well-known as a supposed authority on what true Judaism was.

And then came his conversion where Christ surrounded him with blinding light and called him to account for his hateful and persecuting ways. He then understood the meaning of life; he then understood that all these things that he had considered gain were actually something that he needed now to consider as loss. And so he stopped boasting in these things, and He realized that to know Christ and to follow Christ was the greatest thing in his life. He had seen the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, and his life would never be the same. I think that we need to apply this to ourselves in this way. Before we were converted to Christ we may have thought that just going to church was enough for us to insure that we knew God and were going to heaven. We thought it was gain if we had a good family in a worldly sense of material prosperity and earthly happiness, good friends who would tell us what we wanted to hear; things which compromised the truth of the Bible and didn't require any self-denial, and a minister who would tell us that we were a pretty good person just as we were, even though he didn't say a word about conversion to Christ or the grace that we would need to have, in order to really serve God. Once we found Christ, or rather Christ found us, then we really came to know the truth about ourselves; that our heart was deceitful, and desperately wicked and we did not know it. And we came to know the truth about Christ which led us to knowing Christ Himself. We came to know that it was He alone who was sinless; He alone who was righteous. He alone had the power to save us from ourselves and save us from our sins. And we prayed to be saved. And the things which once were gain to us became loss to us, and we left them behind.

Let us praise God this morning that it was Christ's resurrection power, working in our lives, that convinced us that we were sinners against the Lord; people who were trying to justify ourselves in the sight of God. We knew nothing of the glory of a holy life until Christ revealed it to us. This working of His resurrection power, was to us, our personal revelation that we needed Christ; we knew that we must have Him if we were to be saved or become mature in our thinking. This was working of the power of Christ's resurrection; when we were born again by the Spirit of God. Having been raised from our death in trespasses and sins, we were made spiritually alive in Christ. We now realized that everything that we had ever done to merit favor with God was utterly worthless. It was loss to us. But now we have something far better. We have Christ Himself. And so, we like Paul, all things loss for the excellency of this wonderful knowledge; that Christ has become our Savior, our strong Redeemer, who we have found and who we strive to win. Do you see that winning Christ is the greatest thing that you can do in this life? All other pursuits, all other acquisitions of knowledge and possessions and position is to be considered as loss if you have not won Him. All other things must come to be subservient to knowing Him or they will be loss and no real gain to you. But to know the power of Christ's resurrection in your life; that is true gain. And that is the ultimate reality toward which each of us ought to strive.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – The Phrase – “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection”.**

This phrase clearly shows us that the power of Christ's resurrection is directly related to our being conformed to the death of Christ; that is, it's intent; that we might be able to die to sin and live to righteousness in the expectation of the coming resurrection of all the dead. Romans 6: 10 says that the death that Christ died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.” “Therefore we are not to let sin reign in our mortal body, that we should obey it in its lusts.” “And we should not present our members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present ourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” All of this mortification of sin and all of this using our bodies as instruments of righteousness to God comes from the power of Christ's resurrection. All of our progress in holiness is dependent upon His supplying us with needed grace. But the needed grace will most certainly come to each believer in Christ, for this is why Jesus died and this is why He rose again. And therefore, we should remember what it says in Romans 6: 4 – “That just

as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.” This is the power of Christ’s resurrection, to unite us to Himself by His blessed Holy Spirit, and then to give us grace to be able to walk in newness of life and then we will have the blessed confidence that we shall attain to the resurrection of the righteous at the end of the world, where we will be raised from the dead by Christ and receive our body back again to rejoice in the Lord forever for the power of His resurrection. That is why we should rejoice in Christ’s resurrection today.

**Close with Hymn # 206 – Low in the Grave He Lay, Jesus My Savior**