

April 20, 2014

*“Resurrected Rejoicing, **in the LORD!**”*

Philippians 3:1-14

It is a message worthy of repetition -

^{NKJ} **Philippians 3:1** Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is not tedious, but for you it is safe.*
(Phi 3:1 NKJ)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NKJ)

I. The Power of the Resurrection is a DIFFERENT, DISTINGUISHED Power, it is God’s power in contrast with man’s –

Rejoice in God’s POWER, rather than in the flesh, beware of getting caught up in mere HUMAN religion which puts emphasis on fleshly works –

² **Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!**

³ **For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,** ⁴ **though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:** ⁵ **circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;** ⁶ **concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.** ⁷ **But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (Philippians 3:2-7 NKJ)**

1. All HUMAN religion comes or falls short of the glory of God, in fact even the best of man-made religion moves in a way opposite of God’s will –

- A. What does every human religion (except for Biblical Christianity) have in common? Self-improvement, a reaching up to God or Heaven or a higher level of consciousness ...*
- B. The Pharisees of Paul’s day (even Paul himself) represented the height of such religion! He and his fellows thought themselves keepers of the law - :6*
- C. Yet, look where their “zeal” led them! “Persecuting the church”; it led to the crucifixion of Christ –*

²¹ **But they shouted, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” (Luke 23:21 NKJ)**

D. The religion of the Pharisees like all man-made religion and philosophy led to DEATH –

¹² **There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12 NKJ)**

- 2. See how Paul uses the strongest negative language to describe and disparage the teachers of such HUMAN – powered religion, calling them “dogs” “evil workers” “the mutilation”*
- 3. The rest of Scripture agrees with Paul; see the number of the Beast 666!*

¹⁸ **Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (Revelation 13:18 NKJ)**

I believe very strongly that at least part of the meaning of this number is because man was created on the SIXTH day, it is the number representing the height of man’s achievement apart from God 666 = Man, Man, Man!!!

See what is the Beast’s power?

¹⁵ **He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Revelation 13:15 NKJ)**

Contrary to Man’s Power, the resurrection is the POWER of God –

⁶³ **“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63 NKJ)**

II. The Power of the Resurrection is a Life oriented, Life giving power –

Rejoice in the LORD, as He alone is the Giver of LIFE –

- 1. Is this TOO OBVIOUS? It should be blatantly OBVIOUS!*
- 2. One of my favorite poems (that I don’t completely agree with) is Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Raven” in it he communicates the power of DEATH, which is great, Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore.”*
- 3. My atheist neighbor in Maine communicated such unquenched sorrow as he mourned the death of his mother ...
Yet, we have a life oriented, LIFE GIVING message -*

⁵⁵ **“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”**

⁵⁶ **The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.**
⁵⁷ **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 15:55-57 NKJ)**

*Where the Gospel of Christ is preached and HEARD, life follows –
Even Abundant LIFE –*

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;² It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.³ Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees.⁴ Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you."⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.⁷ The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, *There shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.⁸ A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.⁹ No lion shall be there, Nor shall *any* ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there,¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:1-10 NKJ)

*III. The Power of the resurrection is a Knowable Power,
and knowledge of it, is a knowledge worth seeking:
with all your heart and for all your life – Rejoice in the
Lord, Always - ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His
resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being
conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to
the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:10-11 NKJ)*

*1. It starts with KNOWING God and Jesus, and this is what LIFE
and JOY are all about –*

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

*A. This is a knowledge Paul counts "excellent" and it is the kind of
knowledge everyone should seek, even if the search means
losing all else –*

⁸ **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 (Philippians 3:8 NKJ)**

*B. God expects and desires we should seek such knowledge whole-
heartedly –*

¹³ **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13 NKJ)**

²³ **Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)**

*2. Here this knowledge of His resurrection seems to be a kind of
sister knowledge with "the fellowship of His sufferings"*

*Something not only Paul, but ordinary Christians who had never seen
Christ, rejoiced and gloried in –*

³ **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (1Peter 1:3-8 NKJ)**

*3. By this time Paul himself had been a believer about 30 years,
and an apostle, yet this was a knowledge and power he was
still pressing to know and seeking with prayer, both for himself
and others –*

**Philippians 3:10-14; Ephesians 1:15-21; Ephesians 3:14-19;
Colossians 1:9-14**

Arnold A. Brevick