

RESURRECTION POWER
The Upward Call
Study Notes
Philippians 3:7-14

We were designed to know, worship, and glorify God, not simply to have a good or comfortable life. We were not created just to get married and have children. We were not created just to have a successful business career, grow old, and enjoy a comfortable retirement. Those are some of the benefits of life, the side dishes—not the purpose.

The tragedy today is that we have taken life's benefits and tried to make them the purpose. It doesn't work because we are left empty and unsatisfied. Example: Eve (Gen. 3:6).

Paul has a passion to know, to experience the “power of His resurrection.” There is past, present, and future perspective built into this text. The present reality (being “in Christ”) gives us resurrection power to live today, but it also puts our past in the right perspective and causes us to look toward the future with the right anticipation.

[1 Corinthians 10:31]

PURPOSE FAIL

What I thought empowered me actually only drained me (v. 7-8)

The things in life that seemed the most valuable (v, 4-6) now are considered as loss. The word loss is only used here and in **Acts 27:10, 21** describing the damage to the ship that was sunk.

* Everything is like that when compared to the excellence of knowing Jesus as Lord.

* Knowing Jesus is something Paul now holds higher and values infinitely more than anything else in life.

Not only does he consider all these other things as loss, but he esteems them as garbage. The Greek word is *skubala*, which is only found here in the NT. It describes manure, or waste that needs to be thrown out. That's a strong word!

* Paul had already suffered the loss of all kinds of things. That includes all his self-righteousness as well as most everything else he had. Remember, he is writing this from a Roman prison.

* The most important thing, Paul says, is to gain Christ and be found in Him—not in our own righteousness which is but filthy rags—but in Christ's righteousness which is through faith.

[Isaiah 64:6]

Good works are only good works when the Glory of God motivates it.

* The good works are not an end in themselves, but the good works are the tangible outworking of the love of Christ in our hearts.

You may say that you don't have enough faith. Yes you do! What you need is not a great faith in God, but faith in a great God.

Jesus said that if your faith is even the size of a mustard seed you could move mountains. [**Matthew 17:20**]

PURPOSE FULFILLED

What I have found in Christ is so powerful it consumes me.
No matter how badly I suffer, it's still nothing close to how bad He suffered for me.
It is the same power that raised Him from the dead, the power of His resurrection (v. 10)
[Ephesians 1:19-20]

Verse 10 – “being conformed to His death.” **Being conformed** is one compound word in the Greek—*Sun* (soon), which means to be united with, and *morphoo*, which means form or fashion.
He wants his death to be just like Jesus’—not meaning crucifixion, but he also will be victorious in conquering death in resurrection.
[Romans 8:11]

He's not saying that he considers himself to have arrived at this perfection already—“I haven't attained (taken hold) of it” (v. 12). None of us have while we are here in this flesh.
But, that is the goal. That causes us to want to press on!

The Focus -- forgetting the things that are behind, he presses forward to the goal, the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

You can't change your past, but you can change your future.

Are you fulfilling your created purpose?
Are you fueled by resurrection power?
Are you Pressing On?