

RESURRECTION POWER

LUKE 24:1-7; DANIEL 3:14-25

**Woodland Park
Church of Christ**



7 February 2016

INTRODUCTION

- Many are celebrating what has become known as “Easter Sunday”
- Perhaps some in attendance today are here because it’s Easter.
- Retailers, marketers and advertisers seek to cash in on this “Holy” day --
 - Easter baskets;
 - Candy – marshmallow bunnies and chocolate eggs;
 - Clothing and accessories. **BUT** --
 - I still haven’t quite figured out what bunnies and egg hunts have to do with the resurrection.



- Many in the religious world will hold special services
 - May even wear special colors (WHITE).
 - Do things in & with their services they do not normally do (Ex. - Sunrise services)
 - They may even offer communion

As members of the Lord's body (church), we realize every Sunday (Lord's Day) is precious and sacred – the prescribed day to worship and praise God and commemorate the Gift granted at Calvary!



*For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is **not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins**. . . . But this Man (Christ), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting until his enemies are made His footstool. **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***

Hebrews 10:1-4, 12-14



Conversation with a Colleague in Memphis

- What makes the church of Christ different from the Baptist, since we all love Jesus?
- “You all do love Jesus. Don’t you?”
- *If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
John 14:15
- Worship is sacred; its arrangement should not be taken lightly, and Biblical scripture should govern!
- Weekly observation of the Lord’s sacrifice is scriptural.



WEEKLY OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (SACRIFICE)

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. **I Corinthians 11:26***

First century church's practice demonstrates what the phrase "as often" means.

*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. **Acts 20:7***



In yielding His body and being raised from the dead, the Lord claimed victory over what many thought was the ultimate enemy and the last to be defeated – **DEATH!**

Recall the Apostle Paul notes that “Death is swallowed up in victory.”
I Corinthians 15:54b

Then Paul raises a rhetorical inquisition (questions):

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is victory?” **I Corinthians 15:55**



*The sting of death is sin, and the strength of the sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! **I Corinthians 15:57***



- This should remind us that children of God have the **POWER OF THE RESURRECTION** going for us.
- In a world of challenges, an age of temptation and being “abnormal” in a “normal” world, we can overcome and remain holy and acceptable to God.
- Irrespective of what others may say or how we may feel in this body, we have the power to overcome all that’s in the world.



- **The world and the enemy will tell you -
--**
 - **You can't achieve that; no one in your family has ever done that before.**
 - **Your house is in the wrong zip code.**
 - **You have always had that fiery temper.**
 - **You know your family won't accept you if you become affiliated with the church.**



But the Lord has said –

. . . In the world you will have tribulation; but
be of good cheer, I have overcome the
world. **John 16:33**



- Those who overcome and claim victory tend to focus on --

NOT WHAT THEY ARE GOING THROUGH, BUT WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO!!!



We simply have to call upon a power much higher than we can muster on our own to handle the daily grind sometimes – the **Resurrection Power.**

*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts. **Zechariah 4:6***

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord (God) delivers him out of them all. **Psalm 34:19***

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. **II Timothy 1:7***



TYING IT TOGETHER

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we will come to crossroads in life where it will be convenient, appear to make more sense, and/or even momentarily looks to be more advantageous to deviate from the “Master” plan.

Notice their response when Nebuchadnezzar gave them “one more chance to get it right” before casting them into the furnace.

Daniel 3:14-15



*O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that **we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.***

Daniel 3:16-18



It's like the three Hebrew boys were defiantly asserting that --

- Irrespective of what you may do to me or despite the power you wield, we are not going to forsake the one true God or compromise our values.
- The power of the one, true God lives in us – flows through our veins.
- In God we trust!!!
- Though death appears imminent, we can overcome even this.



TAKE NOTE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DISCOVERY

- After the fire had consumed the men who tossed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego into the furnace, Nebuchadnezzar saw something that made him leap from his seat.
- I thought we threw three men into the furnace!
- *“Look!” “I see four men **loose**, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**” Daniel 3:25*



BECAUSE OF RESSURECTION POWER, YOU MAY BE LOOSED from –

- Self-doubt
- Self pity
- Unfaithfulness & infidelity
- Low self esteem
- Addictions
- Fear
- Lack of confidence



You May Have Your Moment of Trial and Stress and even Times when it Feels Your Faith is Waning.

- That's natural, consider Moses attempted several times to reason that he was ill-equipped to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
 - Speech impediment and wouldn't be able to speak convincingly. **See Exodus 4:10**
 - He lacked the "moxxie" to confront Pharaoh. **See Exodus 3:11**
 - Doubted whether the children of Israel would even believe him. **See Exodus 4:1**



Like Moses, at times we have to be reminded who God is and that we have the power to overcome deficiency, shortcomings, past mistakes, disadvantage and social stratification and become all God has destined us to be!



American Express made the slogan
“Membership Has Its Privileges”
famous.

Being a child of God certainly has its
privileges,

but you're not billed every month for
accessing or claiming the benefits –
**CHARGES ARE COVERED BY THE
BLOOD OF CHRIST.**



Love and relish the fact that God's people can enter a matter or take on a challenge or endeavor with **confidence and boldness.**

We do not have to proceed in fear of circumstances or with doubt or reservation.

Notice I did not say presumptuously or arrogantly or with a sense of entitlement.



*He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for **they were too strong for me.** They confronted me in the day of my calamity. But the Lord was my support. He also brought me into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. **Psalm 18:17-18***

Key to it all → Get to where God delights in us!



LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7; Hebrews 11:6**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:37**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (**Acts 2:38, 8:38**) **or**



INVITATION Cont'd

- Be reconciled to the Lord (**I John 1:9**);
or
- Desire prayer (**James 5:16**).

