

The Power of the Person of Christ in the Christian Life *Philippians 3*

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. This is from the Westminster catechism. But the scriptures also say that “in all we do, whether eating or drinking, do all to the glory of God.” Even the OT speaks of the obsession of David: “I have set the Lord always before me therefore my heart is glad.” But there is also another desire that seems to be desirable and justifiable for Christians to live for. It is this obsession that Paul focuses upon.

- I. The Danger of the Flesh :3:1-2
 - Beware of the dogs, kunas "canine"
 - False circumcision- Judaizers need law to get righteousness - Acts 15:1

- II. The Dependence on Savior :3:3-9
 - A. Theological Truth :3
 - True circumcision in Christ, the end of the law
 - Law through Moses, Grace and Truth through Jesus Christ - Jo 1:17
 - (No law - Gal 2:16, Eph 2:8-9)
 - Focus in on Christ the Savior, not Self- Flesh

 - B. Personal Assessment :4-9
 - 1. Paul's Family Tree- No confidence in Flesh :3-6
 - 2. Paul's Assessment of Heritage for Salvation :7-9
 - 3. Paul's Desire for Righteousness Apart from Any Law and Only By Faith

- III. The Desire of the Saint 3:10-14
 - A. The Purpose
 - 1. The Power of Resurrection (anastasis) :10a

 - 2. The Participation / Partnership-Fellowship in Suffering :10b

 - 3. The Pattern Conformed to His Death (Thanatos) :10c

 - 3. The Payoff :11 "Out-resurrection" (ek Anastasis)
(The term is used only one time - Similar in Heb 11:35 “a better resurrection”)
NB. Conditional element. “If somehow I might arrive at or might gain”

Aro. Subjunctive with conditional particle. “If somehow....”

Some passages in the Bible are difficult to interpret. How to decide and determine meaning when there are a variety of options? Validation by Evidence: We must examine the evidence and expose our minds to all the options and rival interpretations.

Possible- Plausible-Potential- Probable- Preferable

Five Options. “Out-resurrection” “Select resurrection”

1. Salvation or Eternal life. Paul’s assurance of salvation was sure and certain as long as he lived a life of faithfulness. (Reformed View)
Resurrection and “out-resurrection” are same
2. Eternal Insecurity: Paul afraid of losing his salvation. (Arminian View)
3. The Martyr View
This view understands Paul’s uncertainty in regards to martyrdom. E. Lohmeyer suggests that the whole epistle is an exhortation to martyrdom by one who is on the brink of martyrdom himself. Lohmeyer uses this key to unlock the secrets of this passage: “The results of martyrdom, which Paul cannot be absolutely certain of obtaining, is the special resurrection from the dead before other Christians, which is the prerogative of the martyr.”¹
4. Reward in Future – THEN (Free Grace View)
This view understands the out-resurrection in context to be referring to rewards offered to those who have been found faithful. This would be in conjunction with verses 12 and 13, as Paul looks to that day that lies ahead, which he presses on toward that he might win the prize.
(Day of Christ 1:6,10, 2:16, -Bema seat 2 Cor 5:9-10, Rom 14:10)
5. Spiritual Resurrection Power - NOW (Free Grace View)
Paul was hoping to attain to a quality of life here and now, which manifested resurrection power. He was seeking to live now in the same manner in which he would live forever.

Paul desired to be with Christ- But would stay on for them 1:19-26

Romans 8 - We live in dead body now (Flesh)

But - Power of the Spirit now.

2 Cor. 3:18 - Transformation

¹ E. Lohmeyer, *Commentary on Philippians*, 141, cited in I. Howard Marshall, *Kept by the Power of God* (Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1969), 119.

B. The Protocol :12

1. Negative

Not Obtained - Not Perfect :12a

2. Affirmative

I Press On (3:6 harass- press) press on 3:12,14

C. The Product :13-14

I Press- strain for the Goal, for the Prize - Upward call of God in Christ Jesus

What did Paul need to forget?

His pedigree. 3:5

His sin against God and the church

What did Paul focus on?

His Salvation Justification - Righteousness by Christ's Death. 3:8-9

His Salvation Sanctification by Christ's Life. 3:10-12

Paul desired to live in the power of the resurrection right now because that was what the resurrected Jesus could do in his life experience. When we focus on that, the things of the world look strangely dim.

What is your goal? What are you straining for?

IV. The Demeanor of Paul 3:15-16

Perfect- mature

Mindset (Phil 1:7, 2:2, 5, 3:15,16, 19, 4:10)

Have this mind - Be likeminded as me - Follow my thinking

Points to Ponder

Do you have this mindset, desire and drive?

Do you want the power of the resurrected Christ living out in your life?

Are we truly Centered in Christ or Self?

What do you want for this week? How do you want to live?

Neither Covid 19 nor the Election is able to get in your way of living for the Father's glory through the resurrected Christ dwelling in you by the power of the Holy Spirit.