

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Philippians 3:1-10**.
- B. Paul mentions for us three "mountain peaks" of the Bible and of the gospel message.
 - 1. The resurrection of X.
 - 2. The sufferings of X.
 - 3. To attain to the resurrection of the dead.

I. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

- A. Peter mentions the resurrection and builds a sermon around the point that the raised Jesus is Lord and Christ (Ac. 2:24, 29-31).

"And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. **29** "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, **31** he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY."
- B. The resurrection shows the power of the HS (Rom. 1:4).

who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
- C. Jesus Himself said that unless He goes away He cannot send the HS, or the Comforter (Jn. 16:7).

"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."
- D. Paul's instruction in 1Cor. 15 tells us of four things we may know because of the resurrection of X (1Cor. 15:13-17):

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. **15** Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; **17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

 - 1. Faith.
 - 2. Preaching (good news).
 - 3. True witnesses (the apostles are).
 - 4. Sinlessness.
- E. Peter said that baptism is unable to save if Jesus did not come back from the dead. Baptism saves by the resurrection (1Pet. 3:21).

And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,...
- F. We need to study again and again everything pertaining to the resurrection of X. Our entire Xian system rests on it.

II. THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST.

- A. Suffering is something that we rarely want to think about. It means pain and discomfort. But the sufferings of X are different because His suffering had a purpose. His sufferings can help us to endure when we suffer.
- B. Peter told those under persecution that when they suffer as X did they can rejoice (1Pet. 4:12-13).

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; [13] but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.
- C. Sharing in the sufferings of X (living righteously as He did) will result in our glory (Rom. 8:17).

and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

- D. With sufferings in abundance, so comes the comfort that is in X (2Cor. 1:5)
For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.
- E. To die with X, is to be able to reign with Him (2Tim. 2:11-12).
It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; **12** If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;
- F. X is our perfect example, even in sufferings (1Pet. 2:18-21).
Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. **19** For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. **20** For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. **21** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

III. ATTAINMENT OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

- A. This is speaking of the final resurrection.
- B. All will be resurrected, but obviously under consideration here is to be resurrected with the faithful to everlasting life (Jn. 5:28-29).
“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, **29** and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”
- C. Jesus died physically and was resurrected back to life. He was not a “spirit” or “ghost” after the resurrection. We too want to share in this kind of the resurrection (Rom. 6:5).
For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,
- D. We can look forward to such a day if we have the attitude spoken of in Phil. 3:20-21.
For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- E. A familiar passage read at many funerals and one which gives great comfort is about what will happen on the final day (see 1Th. 4:13-17).
- F. Let our goal be to be raised immortal and imperishable on that day when Jesus comes in the clouds (see 1Cor. 15:50-54).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The Xian life is summed up into three parts in today’s lesson;
 1. To know of the resurrection of X is to believe.
 2. To know of His sufferings is to repent of sin and live faithfully
 3. To attain to the resurrection is to love His appearing (2Tim. 4:8).
in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- B. Become a Xian this day to enjoy the wonderful blessings of this life and of eternity to come.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.