







“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer *with joy*, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.”

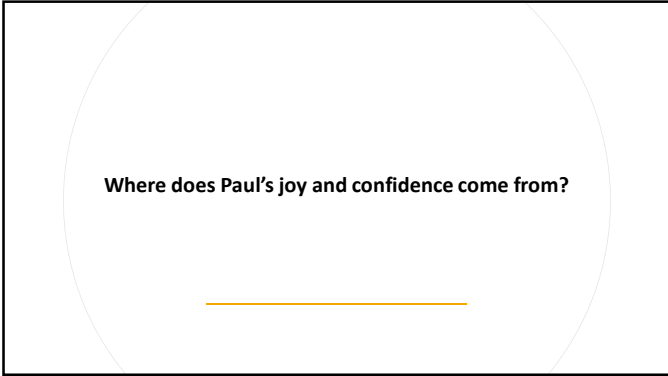
Philippians 1:3-6

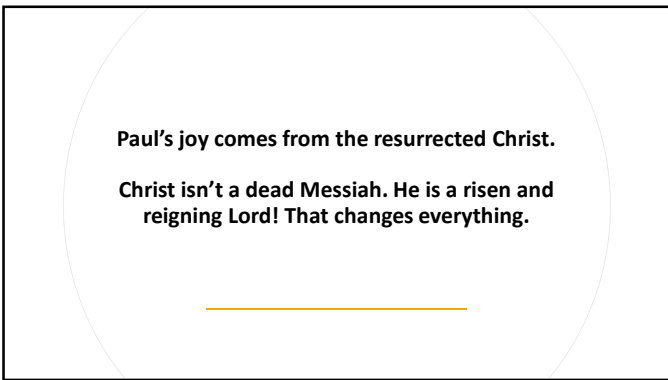
“Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.”

Philippians 1:15-18

“*I rejoiced greatly* that you have revived your concern for me and that you were concerned, but you had no opportunity. Not that I speak of being in need. For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be abased and I know how to abound in any and every circumstance. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*”

Philippians 4:10-13







“Finally my brothers, *rejoice in the Lord*. To write the same things to you is not trouble to me and is safe for you. Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Jesus Christ and put no confidence in the flesh.”

Philippians 3:1-3

The Resurrection is a Declaration:

God has received the righteousness of Christ on our behalf and we have nothing to do to merit or to prove our righteousness.

“That is why Abraham’s faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness.’ But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

Romans 4:22-25

The Resurrection is a Demonstration:

God can bring life out of death in any person through Christ and we live not to prove anything but what Christ can do in and through people like us.



“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

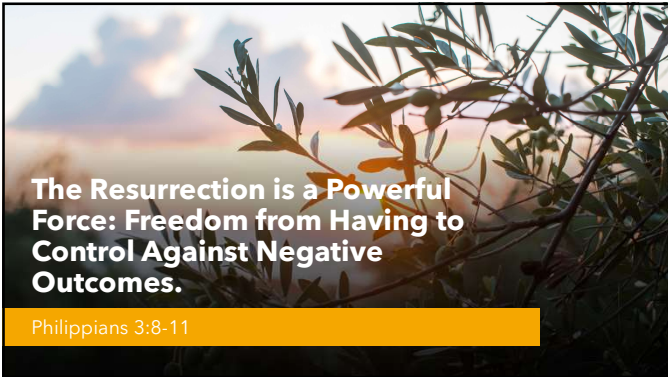
Romans 8:11-13

“It comes out especially when we compare ourselves with the shortcomings that are so obvious in others. They are lazy and undisciplined; we are diligent and exercise self-denial. They are haughty; we pride ourselves on our humility (though we do not admit it aloud). They boastfully call attention to themselves; we disapprove of their brashness, though we may envy the admiration it attracts. The details may differ between the rigorous Judaism of Paul’s day and the casual tolerance of ours, but the drive to reassure our uneasy consciences through our best efforts and sidelong glances at our competitors ties us more closely to Paul’s rabbinic colleagues than we care to admit.”

Dr. Dennis Johnson

Easter optimism comes from glorying in Christ and worshipping by the Spirit of God.

Get Off the Treadmill – Christ has got you covered.



“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and become like him in his death, that I may by any means attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Philippians 3:10-11

Paul is free to live a life of risk for Christ because the resurrection removes all risk.

Paul is free to explore a deeper relationship with Christ because hard places become growth spaces.

People don't fear change. They fear loss.

Paul doesn't fear loss. He embraces it.

Paul's Prayer: That You Might Know

"...what is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his great might that He worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead..."

Ephesians 1:19-20

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes how Paul lives his life:

Faithfulness over security.
Suffering over comfort.

Easter Optimism:

The Christian life is this vast adventure of following Christ and seeing Christ work get us through things that without the resurrection power of Jesus we would never do.

What is it that God has called you to do that only the resurrection gives you the courage to do?



“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example that you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

Philippians 3:17-21

Saul to Paul was an amazing transformation.

But earthly Paul to heavenly Paul will be the beginning of an entirely new adventure.

“Then a great beauty was revealed in him, so that all who after came there looked on him in wonder; for they saw that the grace of his youth, and the valor of his manhood, and the wisdom and majesty of his age were blended together. And long there he lay, an image of the Kings of Men in glory undimmed before the breaking of the world.”

J.R.R. Tolkien, describing Aragorn, after his death in *The Lord of the Rings*

“One day, we’ll meet one another in glory and say,
“Perfect!” We see in part how God works in us now, and we admire his work in each other, but on that day we will be stunned by the perfection God has given.”

Ligon Duncan, *Your Suffering Has an Expiration Date*
