The Power Of Resurrection

Objective: Renew people's confidence in regard to the power that is available and working in them.

Reading: Philippians 3:7-16.

Memory: Philippians 3:10, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection"

Introduction:
1. Saw video of my grandson’s first sled ride; Traveled all of 4 feet and cried. In a couple of years he will be eager to go whizzing down the biggest ski slope he can find. What happens? Confidence!
2. Sometimes Christians face life with fear and trepidation just like everybody else. We think that because we have a more correct set of doctrines that we are different, but in reality, we function pretty much on the same faith level as everyone else we know.
3. For Christians, life, like that sled ride, should be an exciting adventure! We ought NOT fear the ride through life like unbelievers do. We ought NOT face the trials and tribulations of life in the same way everybody else does. We ought to face life and all its adventure, with a joy and confident expectation. And we would if we knew the power of the resurrection.

We need to know “the power of his Resurrection”.

Knowing the power of His resurrection will enable us to actually enjoy the ride through life here and now! Let’s consider some of what “the power of the resurrection ought to mean for us.

The power of His resurrection means for us the

I. Ability To “Stand-Again” After Tragedy.

A. Power to overcome when you should be "dead".
1. This is the experience of Paul and others repeatedly. He is stoned and left for dead, but gets back up an preaches, etc.
2. He faces repeated tragedies; 2 Corinthians 1:9-10, “\textit{Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.} \textit{He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,…}”
3. When life is so tragic, so fearful, so difficult that you want to curl up and die, think about the power.
4. When you know the power, it can be like a roller coaster ride – Wow, I should be dead, but - what a “rush”! You can feel the adventure along with the fear.

B. God’s power enables you to get back up and keep going.
1. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; “\textit{We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.}”
2. This is a picture of one who keeps rising from rubble heap when he/she should be dead.
3. Here is the hero who gets shot 87 times but never dies! That is YOU in Christ.
4. The hero who falls over a cliff, drags self 37 miles to save the people.
5. That is YOU in Christ. \textit{BECAUSE} the power is not you. \textit{It} is God in you!
6. The Apostle says that all this kind of stuff happens to Christians all the time (2 Corinthians 4:7b) “\textit{…to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.}”
7. Enables Christians to become self-sacrificing servants! Give up life for others.

C. What struggles and fears and tragedies do you face?
1. When you face opposition and persecution at work… trust in Him who raises the dead.
2. When you loose your job and it seems like you have no friends, stand faithful and true to the One who raises the dead!
3. Whenever you are down and discouraged; realize that you can still depend on the power of the resurrection which is at work in the here and now and in you if Christ, Who IS the resurrection, is living and abiding in you!

The power of His resurrection means for us, the reality of …

II. A “Start-Over”.

A. You have opportunity to be born again = a new life.
1. This is concept the Apostle John uses.
a. John 3:3, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
b. "Again" has both meanings: 1) Anew, and 2) from above.
2. When a soul sins, it dies. It is separated from God, Who is the source of life.
3. If your life has been messed-up by sin, you can start all over again by the P of His R.!

B. This New life comes with the forgiveness of sins.
1. Through Christ. Colossians 2:13-14, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, “having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.” by His Resurrection!
2. New starts come with repentance and forgiveness. When one legitimately turns from sin, back to Christ, they have a new life back. A start-over! James 5:19-20, “My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

C. This new Life is “in Christ”.
1. John 11:25-26, "a2 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”
2. It is ONLY in Christ; John 14:6, “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
3. Accessed in baptism; Romans 6:4-8, “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—7because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him”
4. To have a real “start-over” to experience new life, your death to the old needs to be real.

III. A “Make-Over”.
A. You become a new creation!
1. 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”
2. It is not just up to you and your strength of character. God helps. If you trust in the power of the resurrection you can be RE-morphed. Totally changed. Take on a brand new life!

B. Worldly people can become children of God.
1. John 1:12-13, “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right (power) to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”
2. Re-made in the image of God – Just like Genesis 1:26 is looking for; “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.” This will then be completed!
   a. Godly characteristics; full of love, peace, faithfulness. Speaking the truth.
3. I have seen the changes spoken of in 1 Corinthians 6:9b-11, “…Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” People totally changed by the power of His resurrection at working them. Lives that were a wreck, a destitute mess, have become thoroughly impressive as Christ lives in them.
   a. I used to hate… What happened to me? A new life! A total make-over.
   b. I used to be racially prejudiced… What happened to me? A new life! A total make-over.
   c. I used to pride myself in my explosive anger … A new life! A total make-over.
Finally, the power of His resurrection means for us, hope, the expectation of…

**IV. Eternal Life in the Spiritual Realm.**

A. Rising from the grave like Jesus.
   1. They saw Him and held Him and ate with him and talked with Him.
   2. Death could not hold him or rob him of any joy or glory.
   3. This also awaits the faithful; **1 John 3:2-3**, “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”
   4. Given a new body. An immortal body. **1 Corinthians 15:52-54**, “…For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

B. Giving us something to really look forward to.
   1. Here is motivation to Godly living. Here is motivation to faithfulness in face of tribulations.
   2. No Pain. No tears. No aging. **Revelation 21:4-5**, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

**So What?**

The power of the Resurrection places new life within YOU. Enlivened by the very Spirit of Christ! Knowing the power of His resurrection, you can live with confidence and joy in the face of whatever this world confronts you with.

**Closing Prayer:**
The Power Of Resurrection
Topical

Reading: Philippians 3:7-16.

Memory: Philippians 3:10

“I   t_ k_ C_ a_ t_ p_ o_ h_ r...”

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What “the power of the resurrection” ought to mean for us.

I. Ability To “Stand-Again” After Tragedy.
A. Power to overcome when you should be “dead”.
   2 Corinthians 1:9-10
B. God’s power enables you to get back up and keep going.
   2 Corinthians 4:8-9    2 Corinthians 4:7b
C. What struggles and fears and tragedies do you face?

II. A “Start-Over”.
A. You have opportunity to be born again = a new life.
   John 3:3
B. This New life comes with the forgiveness of sins.
   Colossians 2:13-14    James 5:19-20
C. This new Life is “in Christ”.
   John 11:25-26    John 14:6    Romans 6:4-8

III. A “Make-Over”.
A. You become a new creature!
   2 Corinthians 5:17
B. Worldly people can become children of God.
   John 1:12-13    Genesis 1:26    1 Corinthians 6:9b-11

IV. Eternal Life in the Spiritual Realm.
A. Rising from the grave like Jesus.
   1 John 3:2-3    1 Corinthians 15:52-54
B. Giving us something to really look forward to.
   Revelation 21:4-5

So What?
Knowing the power of His resurrection, you can live with confidence and joy in the face of whatever this world confronts you with.

Action: (Specify an action or change you will make in your life as a result of this message.)

______________________________________________________________

Date: (When you will check to verify that you have done it.)

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