

## **Making the Resurrection Real in Your Life** **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

### **Introduction:**

1. Every person in this church is different (different backgrounds, different races, different families, and different neighborhoods). But, we have something in common. We all have struggles we are dealing with.
2. Whether you are a believer in Christ or not, you probably have problems, trials, struggles, and hurts you're trying to deal with. It is part of life. You say, "I don't have a problem in the world." Check your pulse – are you breathing?
3. The difference between a believer in Christ and a non-Christian is that one faces his problems with the power of Jesus Christ dwelling within him, and one faces his problems without the power of Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus said after His resurrection, "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*" He has resurrection power (Romans 1:4). Do you have that kind of power? Go to the graveyard right down the street and try it. But, if you know Christ, you have it!
5. Have you ever made the resurrection of Christ real in your life? Is it just a fact that crosses your mind every once in a while, or has it been made personal?
6. I remember the day when the resurrection of Christ became personal and real to me. Can you remember? Maybe today could be that day for you! It is so important and vital. Why is this?

### **First, because of the great love that Jesus Christ has for you.**

1. The apostle Paul had his share of problems. But what compelled him to keep going? What motivated him? What was the driving force in his life? Verse 14 tells us! "*...the love of Christ...*"
2. How did he know? Paul was spiritually dead in his sins and separated from God, yet Paul realized that Christ had died for every one of those sins. vs. 14-15
3. But Christ did not just love Paul and die for Paul's sins. His love was wide and deep enough for the whole world (vs. 19). We are all spiritually dead in our sins (vs. 14). We all have a sin problem which creates a divide between us and God. Christ spanned that gap by dying for our sins on the cross. Romans 5:8; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:24a
4. People wonder, "Could Christ really love me after all I have done?" He has already answered that question. All you have to do is look to the cross to know He loves you.
5. Universities may exclude you if you aren't smart enough, businesses may exclude you if you aren't qualified enough, some churches may exclude you if you aren't good enough. But Christ included you in what He did on the cross because He loves you.

## **Second, because it will give you purpose in life.**

1. So many people just exist with no real purpose in life. They live to themselves and they die to themselves. Life is a mundane routine with no real higher purpose.
2. When the resurrection of Christ becomes real in your life, all of that changes (vs. 15). Your life now has purpose, and that is to bring glory to Jesus Christ and live your life unto His pleasure.
3. We can't do that until our sin problem is dealt with. We are by nature self-pleasing and self-serving. But Christ delivers us from these destructive attitudes.
4. When His resurrection is made real to you, you are so overwhelmed with gratitude toward Christ that your purpose is now to please and glorify Him.

## **Third, because it will make a positive change in your life.**

1. When Christ's resurrection is made real in your life, look at the result. vs. 17
  - This is what happens when we are reconciled to God. vs. 18
2. The surgeon may be able to give you a new face, new stomach, and new neck; the banker may be able to give you a low interest rate; the fitness expert may be able to give you a new, toned up body; the beautician may be able to give you a new hairdo...
3. But only Christ can give you a new heart, new life, and a new way to walk, talk, think, and live! And Christ doesn't just give you an extreme makeover or an outward rehab job. He changes you from the inside out.
4. Because of His death and resurrection, Christ has life-changing power.

## **How do you make the resurrection of Christ real in your life?**

1. You must be reconciled to God. vs. 19-20
  - Reconciliation means "to settle or resolve." It means that "a state of hostility has been brought to an end; to bring two opposing parties back into fellowship."
  - The first thing we have to come to grips with is that we all need it. We have all broken God's law and stand guilty before Him. We all deserve His wrath and will incur His wrath unless reconciliation takes place.
2. How does reconciliation take place? Notice verse 18: "*By Jesus Christ...*"
  - God and man are at enmity because we have violated God's law over and over again. But there's good news! God sent a mediator to this earth (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus Christ is *the* Mediator between God and man. He's the bridge.
  - He suffered and died for our sins. He took our place. He initiated the work of reconciliation by paying the price for our sins on the cross.
  - But now God awaits our response. What is God looking for? He's looking for us to humble ourselves and, by faith, accept what Christ has done on our behalf. When we do this, we receive Christ's righteousness. Romans 5:1
  - **Illustration:** A thousand steps between us and God - Religion says you have to walk those stairs one by one and then hope, if you do get to the

top, that you walked them correctly, and God accepts you. But here is the reality: God walks them all for you, then holds out His arms and says, “I’ve done it all for you. Will you come? Will you receive my Son and the work He has done for you?”

3. The moment you see your sinful, lost condition and cry out in faith to Christ, He has promised to save you and, instead of being an object of wrath, you become an object of His grace.
  - At that moment, the death and resurrection of Christ will be more than just an event or fact. It will be made real in your life!