

Because Christ Lives

Text: II Cor. 4:14

Date: 4-17-22 @ 10:30 AM

Truth: Despite the difficulties of this earthly life, the resurrection gives us confidence in the power of God to raise the Lord Jesus, it gives us proof of our living resurrected Savior, and it provides us hope that one day we will be in the presence of God and His Son for eternity. Halleluiah! Truly, Because Christ Lives we can face today.

Introductory material

Verse 7: The person who communicates this great treasure is but a mere mortal in their physical body. The contrast is obvious: glorious permanent treasure to temporary human life.

“A deepening sense of his own unworthiness, compared with the grandeur of his message, characterized Paul’s life (cf. Eph. 3:7–9). God intended this sharp contrast so that no one would question the source of the gospel and its **all-surpassing power**”.¹

Verse 8-9: Ministry is costly or it will accomplish little or nothing. We must recognize that if we truly desire to serve others, we must be willing to give our all to the cause of Christ.

Verse 10: Paul was growing spiritually and being sanctified daily because the resurrection life of Christ was within him.

We are walking testimonies of Jesus Christ. Do you realize the change that has come to you as a believer? Do you realize the power that is manifested through you because of Jesus Christ?

Verse 11: Paul believed that he was sharing in both the death and the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:24), and it was this death and life that were Paul’s power and motivation to face the daily challenges and trials that came his way. Since Paul lived in union with Christ he trusted God to raise him in the future (II Tim. 2:11). He trusted God so much that even if he died he would live! While Paul’s life was a continual risk because of the cause of Christ, this also made the life of Christ more evident in his life.

Verse 12: Paul believed that whatever suffering he endured would be the means by which the Corinthians would come to Christ (II Cor. 1:5-6; II Tim. 2:10).

Verse 13: Paul believed that even though he was greatly afflicted, God would save him. How would Paul endure in the midst of suffering? How can we endure in the face of trials? **The answer is simple: Because Christ Lives!**

I. Paul endured in the midst of his suffering because he believed that he would be delivered by the power of God (II Cor. 4:14a).

This word (Greek: *oida*) means “to be cognizant or aware of a fact or a specific piece of information; possess knowledge or information about” (Bible Sense Lexicon). Why does Paul act as he does? Because he knows and believes in the truth of the resurrection of His Savior. Just as God’s power delivered His Son from death, that same power will deliver Paul from his trials and death.

¹ Lowery, D. K. (1985). [2 Corinthians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 563). Victor Books.

The bottom line for Paul was that he could talk about death and suffering because he was both confident and certain that God Himself would protect and deliver him. He believed that his persecution, his troubles, his afflictions, his being knocked down would not be the end of it all. He believed that God was greater than those temporal issues. He believed that His redeemer liveth. He believed God had done something so wonderful, so amazing, so powerful, that He could and would also do it for him.

The person that truly believes in the power of God will not fear trials, death, or the future. Our confidence in this life must remain steadfastly in the power of deliverance of God Almighty. This confidence is wholly founded upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

II. Paul endured in the midst of his suffering because he believed his deliverance was based on proof of the living Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:14b).

When Christ rose again, death was swallowed in victory. Christ permanently defeated death, never to die again. This means Jesus Christ is alive forevermore!

Because He lives we can face not only tomorrow, but today. Because He lives all fear is gone. Because He lives and I know He holds the future, life is worth living!

III. Paul endured in the midst of his suffering because he believed he would be present at the future resurrection (II Cor. 4:14c).

Because Christ lives, the believer will live forever with Him!

Based on the proof of the living Lord Jesus who defeated the grave, death, and the powers of sin and hell, Paul's overflowing confidence was that he would also be resurrected. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Firstfruit and Guarantee of all believers' resurrections including all of us here today who have placed our faith for salvation in Jesus Christ.

Spring is coming! Because of the demonstration of the power of God to raise His Son. Because His Son our Savior lives forevermore. Because our confidence remains to be one day with the Lord Jesus, we can sing:

Oft Times The Day Seems Long, Our Trials Hard To Bear;
We're Tempted To Complain, To Murmur And Despair;
But Christ Will Soon Appear, To Catch His Bride Away,
All Tears Forever Over, In God's Eternal Day.

It Will Be Worth It All, When We See Jesus;
Life's Trials Will Seem So Small, When We See Christ;
One Glimpse Of His Dear Face, All Sorrow Will Erase,
So Bravely Run The Race Till We See Christ.