

The Power of the Resurrection

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 12 April 2009

Preacher: Jon Hueni

[0:00] Let's turn in our Bibles to Romans 6. I'll read the first 14 verses. What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning that grace may increase?

! By no means! We died to sin. How can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

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.

If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. For 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, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again. Death no longer has mastery over Him.

[1:07] The death He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What one attribute of God do you think of when we come to consider the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? Perhaps there are several that would come to mind, but none more than His power. His power. Jesus Christ, who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead.

Now, before there can be a resurrection, there must be a death. And some have denied His death. And that booklet that Pastor Aaron spoke of refers to some of those who think that our Savior just swooned on the cross and was resuscitated in the grave and other such theories, and you can read that.

[2:39] But the Gospel records are just as insistent about Jesus' death as they are about His resurrection. He was confirmed dead by a soldier's spear.

Instead of breaking Jesus' knees to hasten death as they did the other two criminals, they came to Him and saw that He was already dead and did not need that procedure.

And so a soldier took His spear and rammed it up His side and immediately a flow of water and blood came forth. And so as a dead man, He was taken down from the cross, as dead as any dead man has ever been, and laid in the grave, wrapped in spices and strips of linen, and laid in that tomb that had been cut out of the rock, and then the large stone was rolled over the door to the tomb.

So there inside, the sealed tomb, it's dark and it's cold. And the body of Jesus is as cold as the stone slab that He lies upon.

and He's there all through Friday night and all day and night Saturday and the beginning of Sunday. And then, before dawn broke, unseen by any man, the power of God went forth to that tomb and suddenly, in a moment, Jesus was alive.

[4:17] as alive as you and I are alive. And He came right up out of His grave clothes. He came right up out of the tomb with the sealed door.

It was only later that we read of an earthquake and the stone being rolled away and the angel sitting upon it. And then He appeared to many witnesses who saw Him alive.

Now that's power. That's power. Modern medicine is able to do amazing things. They can stop a man's heart and then start it again. They can even shock a person who's had a near-death experience.

But I'll tell you one thing they cannot do. They cannot go into a morgue and come upon a body that has been three days dead and say, we're going to make this body live again.

They can't do that. Daily in the news we hear of this one and that one who has died, some great athlete due to some accident.

[5:25] He's gone. You can't bring him back. You read of mass murders! And earthquakes that take many and though many would like to bring them back, man is helpless before the grim reaper death.

But in the resurrection of Jesus, we're confronted with a power that is beyond comparison. It is the supernatural. It is the almighty power of God Himself.

And I say to every believer here today that Christ's resurrection has brought you into contact with this same resurrection power.

The power of Christ's resurrection is presently or has already worked upon your heart. It is presently working within you and it will operate upon you in the future.

That's the teaching of the Bible. And it's the passion. It was the passion of the Apostle Paul.

Remember what he said? I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.

[6:44] I want to do more than talk about the power of His resurrection. I want to do more than admire the power of His resurrection. I want to know it. I want to experience it in my life.

Now you say, Paul, you already know Christ. Why would you say I want to know Christ? Oh, there's so much more of Him to know.

I want to know Him better. He's not satisfied with His present level of knowing Christ. And the same thing is true of knowing the power of His resurrection.

Paul, you already have experienced the power of His resurrection. Oh, but there is so much more to the power of His resurrection. And I want to know this Christ and the power of His resurrection.

Christian, do you find your heart panting with Him? Do you want to know more of Christ and to know the power of His resurrection? listen how Paul prays for the whole church of Christ and it includes you.

[7:51] Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 18 and 19. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, that you might know not only the hope to which He's called you, His inheritance in the saints, but His incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is according to the working of His mighty strength which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.

You see what Paul is saying? This incomparably great power, this resurrection power is for us who believe. it operates on our behalf and it is so amazing that I have to pray for you that your eyes will be enlightened so that you'll understand that.

That the same power that lifted Christ from death to life is operating in your life. I want you to know it. I want you to understand it. I want you to live upon it.

And is that not what we need, Christian? Power. Power. Power to live the Christian life. Power to kill every upcropping of pride and lust and greed.

[9:15] Power to kill every temptation. Power to love and obey and serve God in the place where He's put us. Power to witness to Jesus Christ.

Reality and what He's done in our lives and what He's done for us and who He is. Power to deny myself, to forget myself and to minister to you.

Power to be in self-control. Power to be patient. Power to forgive. Power to not worry.

Power to not fear. Power to not conform to this world. We need power, don't we? And Paul says in that same letter to the Ephesians in chapter 3 and verse 20, He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us.

What power is that? He's already told them. It is the same power with which God raised Christ from the dead. And so we pray that you, dear Christian, this morning might come to understand it a bit more.

[10:32] That you might believe it. That you might depend upon it. That you might draw upon it. That you might live like it. We celebrate today the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

And what I want us to see today is that we are active participants in His resurrection. You heard me right. We are active participants.

We're not mere spectators looking on. We're active participants in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Over and over, Paul tells us that Christ has been raised.

But he says more than that. He says, we believers have been raised with Christ. Yes, Jesus was raised and we were raised with Him.

Just as He not only tells us that Jesus died, but that we have died with Him. He tells us both those things. Now this is language of union with Christ.

[11:41] We've been united to Jesus. We've been joined to Him. and it's a union so tight and so intimate that as far as God is concerned, whatever Jesus has done, we have done.

We send representatives to Congress and they are there to act on our behalf. They're our representatives. We send five men out onto the basketball court.

Every school sends their representatives out onto the court. And if they win and we go to that school, we can say we won because our representatives won and because of our union with them, as light as that may be, we go to the same school, we're able to say we won.

Well, in a far deeper way, there is a union between Christ and His people. people. And Jesus is God's chosen representative for His people so that what He does, we have done in the eyes of God through our representative.

When He lived, we lived. When He died, we died. When He rose again, we rose again. He didn't act as a private individual, but as the public covenant head and representative of all His people.

[13:03] So Paul can say, for instance, in Galatians 2.20, I have been crucified. And we say, now wait a minute, I remember Paul being stoned, I remember him being beaten with rods, shipwrecked, flogged, and all the rest, but I don't remember him being crucified.

I have been crucified with Christ, he says, with Christ. So a Christian tourist was visiting the Holy Land, and a tour guide took the group to the traditional site thought to be Golgotha.

And the tour guide announced it was here 2,000 years ago that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.

And the Christian spoke up and said, I know, I was here.

And the tour guide said, no, you couldn't have been here. It was 2,000 years ago that Christ was crucified. And he says, I know. I was here.

I have been crucified with Christ. And, Paul goes on to say, I no longer live. You see, it was a real crucifixion, a real death.

[14:24] I died, and I no longer live. And the life that I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Isn't that strange? He says, I died and I no longer live. And yet he turns around and says, the life I live. He's talking about a life. He's still alive then.

Yes, he's dead and yet he's alive. The old Paul is dead. The one you see is a new man in Christ. Christ. And so it is with every believer.

We have died with Christ. We have been raised with Christ. And so the tour guide could proceed to the garden tomb and say, we think it was here that Christ came alive from the dead.

And every Christian could say, I know I was here. For I have been raised with Christ. It's union with Christ.

[15:25] We were there in our representative. What Christ did, we did. Turn to Colossians chapter 3 and notice this language. You saw it in Romans chapter 6 in the scripture reading.

It's several places. I want you to notice it so plainly here in Colossians chapter 3. Since then, verse 1, since then you have been raised with Christ.

That's how he starts the chapter. And if you want to look back up at chapter 2 and verse 20, you notice he says, since you died with Christ. And so there we have it in these two phrases.

Since you died with Christ, since you have been raised with Christ, this is how resurrection power becomes yours, in union with Christ, the risen living Savior.

So let's unpack that phrase. what does it mean when the Bible tells us that you have been raised with Christ? What does that mean for you? Well, it means two things.

[16:27] It means spiritual resurrection and it means bodily physical resurrection. First of all, and first in order, it means spiritual resurrection.

Now, any resurrection is life from the dead. it's to be brought from death to life. And that is what has happened to every believer spiritually.

We're talking about that part of you that is not physical. That part of you, your spirit has been brought from death to life. Follow this progression over in Ephesians chapter two, where Paul speaks of it.

Ephesians chapter two. and the first six verses. Notice he begins verse one. As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you used to live.

You notice the strangeness again. You were dead in which you used to live dead and yet alive. Strange that, isn't it?

[17 : 39] Well, that's because he's saying you were alive physically, but you were dead spiritually. You were the living dead. Paul, another place, speaks of those who live for pleasure as being dead even while they live.

First Timothy five, six. So though our feet could walk, they refused to walk in the ways of God. We were alive and yet we were dead in sin.

Our spirits were dead. Our heart was dead toward God. And it was seen in the way that we lived.

We lived in transgressions and sins. Notice what he says in verse two and three.

When you followed the ways of this world, the ways of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient, all of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Oh, we were very alive to the world's desires, very alive to Satan's desires, very alive to our sinful desires, but we were dead toward God's desires and thoughts.

[18 : 55] That means when God's law came commanding us, we said, no, thank you. Romans 8 and verse 7. We would not submit to the law of God and neither indeed could we.

We were dead toward God. We had no desire to know God, to fellowship with him, to live his way. And so the Bible bored us and the world enthralled us.

We were dead toward God. That was our condition by nature and because of it, Paul says, we were by nature the objects of wrath deserving of God's wrath.

Verse 4. But because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, here's our phrase, made us alive with Christ, even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you have been saved.

You see, we're celebrating this resurrection today, but it wasn't just Christ who was made alive. God made us alive with Christ. And it's because of our union with Christ in his resurrection that we have our own personal spiritual resurrection in our lifetimes, believers.

[20 : 19] We've come to taste that power of the resurrection in our hearts. Life from the dead.

Resurrection day is a day to remember your resurrection with Christ.

Can you remember? Can you remember the darkness and coldness toward God in the tomb of your dead heart? Do you remember that believer? How you yawned at the things of God and live for yourself?

All that the world offered that glittered caught your eye, but as for Christ, you saw no beauty in him that you should desire him. You remember that? It was darkness. It was cold.

No life toward God. And then a day came. And all of that was changed. He came into the tomb of your dark heart and he brought life where there had been only death.

And he put forth a resurrection power and raised you from your spiritual deadness in sin. And he made you alive to God. Alive to his presence.

[21 : 37] And not in a sense of wanting to run from him, but wanting to draw near to him. And you saw beauty in Christ and you ran to him and you threw your soul upon him and you trusted in him and you turned from your sin and new desires were brought to life that day.

You had a heart to know him. You had a will to please him. and brothers brothers brothers and sisters that's why Christ is still precious to you today. You have been raised with Christ from your deadness in sin.

That's why you can sing today. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world can offer me. I wouldn't trade him for anything. Your loving kindness is better than life.

And that's why you order your steps according to God's word. It's why you are experiencing his power and putting sins to death. It's why you're still a Christian. Why you're still trusting and obeying the Lord Jesus.

You've been raised with Christ to a new life and you're experiencing the power of his resurrection. You see all this virtue all this power flows to you because you're one with Jesus and when he rose you rose with him.

[22:58] Christ empty tomb spells spiritual life for you. I turn back to Romans 6 and verse 4 because Paul says baptism pictures this spiritual reality of our death burial and resurrection with Christ.

Baptism is the picture but it stands for a reality. There was a real burial death and burial and a real resurrection with Christ that took place. So he says in Romans 6:4 we were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead to the glory of the father we too may live a new life.

Christ was raised from the dead that we too might be raised from the dead to live a new life. So my unconverted friend I ask you wouldn't you like to start over once you like to start over you say I've messed up big time I've sinned against God I realize I'm guilty before him I've not loved him with all my heart mind soul and strength I've lived for myself and for my sin and I'm under God's wrath and condemnation do you realize you could start all over this morning that's that's what the resurrection of Christ is it's an entire new beginning to life you see in Christ the old you can be crucified dead buried and gone forever and new you can be raised with Christ this morning and begin to live a new life a life of resurrection power you come to

Christ and cast yourself upon him and you will start to live a new life as one alive from the dead that's how it is with every Christian someone said the story of our life could be told in two volumes and the first volume was the old man the old John John without Christ John in sin John under the master of sin and there are the pages and the chapters of my life but in Christ the last word of the last chapter has already been written in that book it is over that is the BC life of John and it's crucified with Christ it's dead and buried but I haven't been left dead I've been raised again to new life and the moment of my spiritual resurrection a new volume began not a perfect obedience to Jesus no but a new obedience to Jesus from the heart a trust in him a love for him and that book is still being written wouldn't you like to begin anew come to this Christ and trust in him what a wonderful thing if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation the old is gone behold everything becomes new now this reality that we're speaking of this morning of our spiritual resurrection with Christ that is to be front and center with us every day that we live it's something we must remind ourselves of over and over and over again I have been raised with Christ and that's what Paul does for us in Romans chapter 6 the first 10 verses of Romans 6 he's telling ordinary Christians at Rome merchants tent makers weavers builders farmers housewives children and slaves he's telling them two important things about their union with

[27:01] Christ he's saying Jesus died and Jesus rose again and when he died you died with him and when he rose again a new you rose with him and that's verses 1 through 10 that old you that died with Christ is dead and gone and the new you that rose with Christ still lives it's alive to God whereas once you were dead toward God and then we come to verse 11 the first command in the book of Romans how are we to live a holy life how are we to not go on sinning as this chapter is telling us well he tells!

consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus you see he builds it upon verse 10 the death he Christ died he died to sin once for all but the life he lives he lives to God so in the same way now Christian you count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus count it so consider it to be the case with you think of it in this way I have died to sin the old me is gone I have been raised with Christ I'm alive to God remember that remember you're dead to sin remember you're alive to God it's by being raised with Christ that you experience resurrection power it's yours Christian since you're united to

Christ this resurrection power is at work in you believe it it takes nothing less to live the Christian life to make every inch of progress against sins that seek to reassert themselves in your life this power has already operated in your heart in regeneration and this same resurrection power is now operating in you in sanctification so verses 12 and 13 he says just as we used to offer the parts of our body as instruments of sin to further the purposes of sin our old master so now we are to offer ourselves and all the parts of our body to God as those who have been brought from death to life how am I to offer myself to God every day as one who has been brought from death to life you're to rise in the morning to realize just as

I'm rising out of this bed there was a day when I was dead in the tomb of my sin and Jesus Christ raised me from the dead and so now here I am with a new master I now offer myself to you Lord Jesus and I do so as one who has been raised from the dead to life that experience of resurrection from the dead is to play into my offering myself to God and to remember that I'm not just offering

myself to God period I'm offering myself to God and all my members as one who has been raised from dead to life if somebody rescued you from certain death would you not show your gratitude toward them we see this from time to time on the news don't we when someone perhaps a plane wreck in the water and here's a survivor bobbing out in the freezing waters and they're going down for the last time and someone jumps in and rescues them maybe it was from 9-11 a scene there but right away the one rescued is whisked away to the hospital to be examined and perhaps goes through recovery and then there comes a day when the rescued and the rescuer can meet and we see we see the one rescued from certain death throwing their arms around a perfect stranger and weeping out their gratitude to the one who saved them from certain death now you see where

I'm going with this you see where Paul goes with it it's not that that death was certain no it's that death had already happened we were dead in our sins there was no hope for us dead men don't trust in Christ dead men don't repent of their sins dead men don't come to Christ it only hell awaited us forever and ever but God who is rich in mercy out of his great love brought us to life with Christ and so you have the moment to meet the one that brought you from death to life and you fall down and you say here's my body here's the members of my body here I am I offer myself to you to live for you the rest of my life why have

[32 : 43] I been raised to new life it's to live for you it's a life toward God a Godward life a life that says at every turn not what I want but your will be done!

What would you have me to do today Lord? I offer myself to God as one who has been brought from death to life thank you here I am I'm not my own you've bought me I'm yours this life that you've given me this new life volume two it's all yours write in it what you want I am your servant the love of Christ constrains us to no longer live for ourselves but for him who died and rose again Colossians three we're back there you know this chapter it has its parallel in the book of Ephesians but God has many things to tell us Christians as to how we're to live in Colossians chapter three but you know before he mentions one thing he wants us to remember something verse one since then you have been raised with

Christ that's what you must start with before I tell you to do one thing you must remember who you are you are one who has been raised with Christ therefore since you've been raised with Christ set your hearts on things above set your minds on things above and therefore put to death verse five whatever belongs to your earthly nature sexual immorality impurity lust evil desires and greed which is idolatry and verse eight you must rid yourselves from all such things as these anger rage malice slander filthy language from your lips and don't lie to one another and then verses 13 and 14 bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another forgive as the Lord forgave you and over all these virtues put on love which binds us all together in perfect harmony and then verses 18 to 4 chapter 4 to the end of the chapter he's got a word for husbands he's got a word for wives he's got a word for children he's got a word for parents he's got a word for slaves he's got a word for masters and what he's saying is live this way since verse one you have been raised with

Christ! God and perhaps they're behind and the coach is saying you can do this you need to get it through your head that you can do this you can do this because you have been raised with Christ you can do this because you are a new man in Christ Jesus you are not the old man you used to be he's dead and gone you have been raised to life with new resources resurrection power now get out there and live like it on three and they're gone this is encouragement to the

Christian to live the new life since you have been raised with Christ so every bit of holiness is to be pursued in light of having been raised with Christ to a new life so that's the first thing that it means we asked what does it mean that we've been raised with Christ it means a spiritual resurrection we were dead in sin we've been raised to life it means present power resurrection power to live live this new life but there's more there's a second side there's physical resurrection later and because this is what usually gets the press on the Easter Sunday I'm not going to speak as long to it it's a glorious reality I don't mean to diminish it in the slightest but I don't think I need to labor over it as long man is a body spirit creature and Jesus Christ does not leave us half saved he doesn't say well [37 : 41] I'm going to raise her spirit from deadness and sin but you know the body that's just a corruptible thing we'll just let that rot in the grave that's to leave one of his own that's been joined to Jesus half saved I'm going to raise her spirit from the deadness of sin but then I'm also going to raise her body from the deadness of the grave Romans 8 11 if the spirit of him who raised Jesus

from the dead is living in you then he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal body through his spirit not just give life to your spirit but give life to your mortal body through his spirit who lives in you that's physical resurrection so believer Christ resurrection guarantees yours what happened at the grave of

Jesus is going to happen again at your grave what was dead is going to come out alive if you found an herb that was proven to add 15 years to your life you'd buy it and you'd tell everyone else about it well this is not 15 years it's not 1500 or 15 thousand years it's eternal life it's this body same body that you're so concerned about squeaking out another six months out of and trying to overcome the forces of death that are at work in you that same body is going to have that not 15 years but infinity eternal life and it's not found in an herb it's found in a person the Lord Jesus Christ who was raised to life and you by faith have been joined!

to him so! that what was his is also going to be yours Christ indeed has been raised from the dead the first fruits as we sang of those who have fallen asleep here's all the ones who have died there they are like a field at harvest time and you go out at harvest and the pattern was in Israel that you first picked the first fruits you brought them back and offered them to God and rejoiced in the bountiful harvest even before it was picked the first fruits were the proof that there's more in the field where this came from and so they celebrated even before it was picked well there's the field of all the dead know what a field it is and here is Jesus on the first resurrection morn the first fruits from the dead and if the first fruits have been raised there's a whole harvest where that's come from that is yet to be raised listen how

Paul puts it for since death came through a man the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man for as in Adam all die so in Christ all who will all will be made alive but each in his own turn Christ the first fruits then when he comes those who belong to him and then the end will come when he hands over the kingdom to God the father!

he has destroyed for he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet the last enemy to be destroyed is death until the body of every last person who has been joined to Christ has been raised from the dead there is unfinished business with this earth the last enemy death has not yet been finally destroyed but when Jesus comes back and those who belong to him are raised that will be it our citizenship!

[42:08] is in heaven and we eagerly await a savior from there the Lord Jesus Christ who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control will transform our lowly bodies that they might become like his glorious body for the trumpet will sound and 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 where oh death is your victory where oh death is your sting the sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law but thanks be to God he gives us the victory through our Lord

Jesus Christ this victory over death is ours he won it for us by his death and resurrection you've been raised with Christ from the dead spiritually do you have a certain hope that when they lay you in the grave you will rise to new eternal life raised with Christ my father reminded me that it was 60 years ago today that he was raised from death to newness of life it was resurrection Sunday that was spiritual resurrection day for him and many of you here have your own spiritual birthdays you've been raised with Christ spiritual resurrection and yesterday our brother Scott had to say goodbye to his father but because he died in

Christ faith resting on Christ alone the Bible tells us that his spirit went immediately to be with Christ and that body that will be laid in the grave is awaiting a bodily resurrection both spiritual and physical resurrection belong to every believer in Jesus remind yourself of it often Christ died and you died with him Christ arose and you rose with him so offer yourself to this God some of you need to do it for the first time this morning come to this great savior who is mighty to save has resurrection power to save cast yourself on him and be saved and every one of us who know him come and offer yourself again as those who are alive from the dead

Jesus lives and so shall I oh the power of Christ resurrection what a difference it makes in time and what a difference it will make for all eternity let's talk to the living savior shall we he lives let's speak to him how blessed we are to have a living savior that when we pray we pray not to a memory we pray not to a god of wood and stone to a dead man in a tomb but we pray to the living Christ reigning even now and we ask Lord that you would fill us with a sense of these things apart from

you these things will seem like fairy tales to us oh but when you come and teach us then we will not be the same and we will realize that we have been raised with Christ from the tomb of our sin and we'll offer ourselves up to you as those who realize we do not belong to ourselves we've been bought with a price we've been raised to a new life his life so work it in us we pray and exalt your great name by having a people who will rise up out of the sin of their hearts and actually serve the living Savior and who one day will rise out of their graves as a mighty army to forever sing the praises in our bodies of the Lamb who is worthy to receive all honor and glory and do it for the glory of your name we ask Lord Jesus Amen