

Introduction:

- Charles Colson states: “The most obvious thing to be said about Christianity is that it rests on historic facts: the Creation, the Incarnation, and the Resurrection. Since our doctrines are truth claims, they cannot be mere symbolism. This is important to remember as we celebrate the Resurrection, which is often clouded by the pageantry of Easter.” Chuck Colson is speaking of a lost experience in Christianity. A life giving experience that says there is nothing like it.
 - ***IE. Diving the wall in Grand Caymen Island. Sky diving. Watching a baby being born.
- Phil 3:7-ff. vs 10-11 *“I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!”* (Philippians 3:10-11, NLT)
- The experience of the 11 apostles plus Paul: Jesus is alive! Raised from the dead! The **Resurrection** was the message of the early church. And Paul said, vs. 11 “One way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!” What ever it takes I am getting that! What is your experience?

I. Works Won't Cut It!

- A. Two things I know about humanity through observation of people and history:
 1. People know they are sinners with out being told. When you look at all the religions of the world what you see are people through religious systems trying to get rid of their sin consciousness.
 2. All people know there is god and they are seeking to find something bigger than themselves. Therefore they create their gods and perform works to know them. To which the angels on resurrection Sunday replied, *“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”* “Coexist” is seeking the living among the dead.
- B. Almost everyone tries to earn their way into relationship with God. We are works oriented from birth.
 1. We are trained to obey. This starts at home. The majority of that obedience is out of behavior modification and not a true heart change.
 2. We are promoted or praised in life most often when we have earned it.
 3. Because we feel so bad about who we are (sin consciousness) we work hard to get God’s approval or favor.
- C. Philippians 3:5-6. Paul lists the works that he did to win Gods favor and ease his conscience:
 1. circumcised the eighth day: baptized as a baby, confirmation class, etc.
 2. of the stock of Israel: special relationship, parents were christians, etc.
 3. of the tribe of Benjamin: status
 4. a Hebrew of the Hebrews: Great performer

5. concerning the law, a Pharisee; very religious, sort of religious, i have a nice Bible.
6. concerning zeal, persecuting the church: busy in church, "Lord did we not..."
7. concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. Worked so hard to be holy.
8. Work's won't cut it! Morality was never the goal of God. Immortality was Jesus' declared goal!

II. But Righteousness Will

- A. It's my opinion, but I think most people when they hear the word righteousness they immediately think...*unattainable...can't be done...only God can be that...I have never been able to be righteous.* This is why we have to understand the resurrection as more than the story that Jesus rose from the dead. We have to know why? or For what purpose?
 - B. "For He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**" (2 Corinthians 5:21, NKJV)
 1. Jesus became sin on the cross. He took our sin, our guilt and our punishment. It was ours and He took it. Because He took it, He became our sin, and our guilt and therefore received our punishment on the cross. "*Cursed is any man that hangs on a tree.*" Dt 21:23 "*I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.*" (1 Corinthians 15:3, NLT)
 2. Jesus did that so the we could become the righteousness of God in Him.
 3. That my friends is the divine exchange made possible by the cross and resurrection! It is the resurrection that become proof of the message of all of scripture!
 - C. "**He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.**" (Romans 4:25, NLT) He was handed over because of our sins. He was raised to make us right with God!
 1. Paul counted his list of works, degrees, pedigrees as garbage, not loss. You can have a loss or count something at loss and it still has value to you. But Paul goes on to call it garbage...of no value.
 2. He was after a righteousness that came not from what he was able to do // but to obtains God's righteousness that come through faith.
 3. That is why Paul words, "*I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection*" so powerful." Paul understood that it was the resurrection that made it all possible.
 - D. We are made righteous when we believe!
 1. "**for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just,**

and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus." (Romans 3:26, NLT)

III. The Goal Is To Know Him

- A. Paul says, I want to know Him. This really means to know Him intimately. (No sexual connotations). IE. People say all the time about me, "Oh, I know him." No, they know of me. Only my wife knows me. Only the people closest to me "know me." Paul is saying, I am being very diligent about intimately knowing Him because what ever it takes I am getting in on this 'experience of the resurrection from the dead. I will not miss out on that!"
- B. My broad opinion, but it is my observation that most people are not seeking first the Kingdom of God. Most people do not live under the 'drive' to know Him.
 1. "The problem is that most people won't follow Him up, most people won't follow Him out, most people won't follow Him over, because they don't really want to know Jesus."
 2. People want to know the power but they don't want to know Jesus. People want to know the power of His resurrection but they don't want to experience His resurrection.
 3. Fellowship of his sufferings...Who is willing to go through the passage of pain because they aren't just following Jesus for gain?
- C. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we too would be raised up with eternal life. He as the first fruits from the dead! Meaning that there was much more harvest to follow!
 1. Jesus was raised from the dead not because He wanted morality in us.
 2. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we too could experience immortality...life forever more. Praise God Jesus was raised from the dead!

Conclusion:

- *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* John 17:3 Each of you should want to know Jesus today.
- *"I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."* (Philippians 3:14, NLT)
- Paul is saying, I started this race because I saw Him...alive! Because I saw Him alive I am giving it everything I have to know him more.