



## **That I May Know Christ and the Power of His Resurrection**

*Resurrection Sunday 2013*

Philippians 3:1-11 (focus on v. 10-11)

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(I apologize ahead of time. These notes are not as complete as usual.)

Happy Resurrection Day, beloved. I love celebrating with you the resurrection of our Savior King, Jesus Christ, from the dead and His glorious victory over sin, over death and over Satan. I also love the theme that has developed over the last several years, a theme that was not really intentional but has kind of taken root. The theme of the Sunrise service at the Hyltons is always the Resurrection Announced as we look at one of the gospel accounts of Christ rising from the dead. And the theme of the morning service is always Resurrection Applied as we look at the implications of the resurrection in our lives as believers right now and today follows that same pattern. Resurrection Announced and Resurrection Applied – in the life of any faithful Christian, it needs to be both, right?

### More Than A Fact to Be Believed

Follow what I mean. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is more than a theological truth to be believed – it is that – but it is also a spiritual reality to be explored and experienced. It IS a crucial fact to be believed, no doubt. John MacArthur has said: The truth of the resurrection gives life to every other area of gospel truth. The resurrection is the pivot on which all of Christianity turns and without which none of it matters. I won't give you an exhaustive list this morning, but just think about just a few of the things that the truth of the resurrection establishes.

Paul wrote in Romans 1:4, that Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Rom 1:4, ESV) The resurrection of Christ from the dead is God the Father's own witness to the truth that Jesus Christ was just who He claimed to be. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. He declared that God was His Father, that God the Father revealed to Him all that He was doing, that He did the works of God the Father and spoke words of God the Father. He claimed that whoever had seen Him had seen the Father. He claimed to have power over life and death. And in His resurrection from the dead, God the Father declared Jesus Christ to be His Son.

In the fourth chapter of Romans, starting in the 25th verse that Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (Rom 4:25, ESV) The resurrection is God's declaration that He has accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for human sin. Resurrection was the Father's way of saying...Your death accomplished its intended purpose. It was God raising Him from the dead to affirm that what He did on the cross satisfied God's holy justice and truly accomplished he redemption and forgiveness of His people. He was raised in order that in the sight of God we might be made righteous, in order that in the sight of God we might be without sin, in order that our sin might be dismissed and forgiven. Those who trust in him receive eternal life... a free and a full salvation because the resurrection declares that God is pleased with the sacrifice of His Son, and whosoever believes in him is not condemned, and never can be.

We are born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1Pe 1:3, ESV) The resurrection of Christ from the dead demonstrates Christ's victory over sin, death and Satan. It is the ground of our confidence for the pardon of sin, the assurance of acceptance with God. It is the infallible proof of the authority, power, and glory of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. It is the reason we preach and the ground of our hope in the bodily resurrection from the dead to the inheritance of heaven.

The truth is, the resurrection is the reason we are here, worshipping on the first day of the week, redeemed from sin and hell and death, delivered from the wrath of God, because the grave could not hold Jesus Christ, because the Lamb of God did not see corruption in the grave but was raised by the power of God and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. Unapologetically, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead declares that there is no other God, and there is no other Lord and Savior but Jesus Christ.

So no doubt, the factuality of the resurrection is vitally important. It is the lifeblood of the gospel, but is not merely a fact of history to be acknowledged, a creed to be confessed, a fact of orthodox Christianity only. No it is present reality to be “lived in” for all who are disciples of Jesus Christ. The experiential knowledge of Christ’s resurrection is part and parcel of true, vibrant, living Christianity. The resurrection, its realities and its implications, must define who we are as the people of God. And that is the heart behind the text that we are looking at this morning.

### Overview of Philippians 3:1-9

This text is a perfect compliment to what we have been seeing in the book of Matthew. You have to remember that Paul was the consummate Pharisee. And if he had been in the regions that Christ ministered, he would have been right in the thick of the plot to kill him. He was a self-righteous and self-exalting Pharisee, a follower of false religion, and an opponent of the gospel. And the risen Christ, on the road of Damascus, had powerfully humbled him, broken him, brought him face to face with his sin and saved Paul by His exceedingly powerful grace.

And as we look at this text we see that Paul begins by calling them to rejoice in Christ, to find their joy and life and delight in Christ, who He is and what he has done, identifying the repetitive nature of what he is saying to the Philippians: “Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.” (Philippians 3:1, ESV) It is “safe for you”—that is, reminding you of the truth make you firm and secure in your standing with Christ. What does he remind them of?

Paul first warns the Philippians against the pernicious and destructive nature of false religion, against false forms of righteousness and standing with God. He says: “Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.” (Philippians 3:2, ESV) Though Paul specifically has the Judaizers in mind, the warning applies to all forms of religion that put confidence in fleshly attainments, in human performance, in anything other than Jesus Christ as the only means of right standing with God.

Paul, then, makes the connection that true worship can only come from those who glory in Christ – those who glory in Him as the only Son of God, Savior and Lord. “For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—” (Philippians 3:3, ESV) True worship can only come from those who glory in His perfect character, who glory in His incarnation, who glory in His Sinless life, in His substitutionary death upon the cross and His resurrection from the dead. This is the source of true worship – anything else is worthless. And using himself as an example, Paul explains why.

He says, “though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.” (Philippians 3:4–7, ESV) And why would he say that? Here’s why. There is no value in fleshly distinctives, in fleshly accomplishments, because they are fundamentally flawed. All of them are hopelessly stained with sin, corrupted by our sinful nature. Nothing can be presented to God as currency with Him. None of our works can be satisfactory to God, none of our attempts at keeping the Law or being good cannot be saving in any way because we are not good and cannot keep the Law which requires not only exacting obedience, but also a pure, clean, unmixed, undiluted, virtuous, irreproachable heart motive which we do not have. Only Christ does. That is why Paul was willing to lose everything he thought he had to have Christ. He goes on:

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8, ESV) Knowing Christ far exceeds any of the promise of fleshly religions and why? Because knowing Christ as Savior and Lord answers every need of our soul before God. He, alone, has perfectly and thoroughly – in every respect – kept the Law. He had both demonstrated perfect righteousness and earned the reward of perfect righteousness in human flesh. He has tasted death, enduring and extinguishing the wrath of against sin in the place of everyone who trusts in Him as his or her personal substitute and deliverer. And after dying the death that we deserve, He rose from the dead because death could not hold His sinless perfection. He has paid for our sins on the tree and given to us credit for his perfect righteousness. God treated Him as a sinner that He, in Himself was not, and declared the believing sinner righteous with Christ’s righteousness, which in ourselves, we are not. “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)

You can understand why Paul would speak of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. What is possibly better? Knowing Christ in a saving way, truly knowing Christ who accomplished in His body, on this earth what we could never have accomplished regardless of the extent of all of our human efforts is greater than anything else because knowing Him in eternal life. “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (John 17:3, ESV)

This is so radically different than our fallen way of thinking. We think that we have it within our power to do something to make ourselves acceptable to God or that God should just accept us as we are. That is impossible. But Christ has done all that is necessary, that that could be done to allow God to forgive us, to receive us and remain just. He is the only one who could -- the only way of peace and forgiveness and favor with God. This is exactly what the Pharisees could not and would not believe. They could not stand the thought that their righteousness was as filthy rags. They could not stand the thought that they were dependent upon Christ for anything but above all for their standing with God. And that is exactly the pit in which Paul would have remained apart from the regeneration of His heart, apart from God’s grace, apart from the seeking and saving work of Jesus Christ, apart from the intercession of the risen Christ.

You know, in our modern age, so often the surpassing worth of Christ eludes us because the reality of God, the seriousness of His holy demands, our own sinfulness, and our desperate need for forgiveness and life in Christ rests so lightly on our minds and hearts. Our need escapes us and so Christ’s worth does too. Our culture doesn’t think much about eternal realities. Ours is not a God-conscious society and so neither is much of the modern, so-called church. Reductionism dulls the spiritual senses. The reduction of sin and God’s holiness makes people dull to their deepest need and so they can be satisfied with religion that is empty of the true Christ. But not Paul. In verse 9 he expresses his desire that he would gain Christ “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—” (Philippians 3:9, ESV)

Do you see what Paul is saying? There was a great trade that demanded to be made – the loss of all of the thoughts of merit with God that had been racked up either by standing or by lineage, or by religious effort to keep the Law, in order to gain, by faith, a true righteousness

and all that is real life in Christ. Salvation cannot be had in any other way. What Paul is saying is that he gladly gave up the false, the fictitious, the fabricated, the imaginary righteousness that he labored so hard to obtain and to convince himself that he had attained in order to lay hold of the true righteousness that is found by faith in the crucified and risen Savior. It is the exchange, the trade that we all must make. This the demand of the crucifixion and resurrection.

And all of this leads Paul, as a saved man, to say what he says next. He tells us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead affected him in two profoundly practical and significant ways. The truth of the resurrection of Christ from the dead impelled and compelled Paul to first, know Christ, personally, more and more, AND to know both by precept but also by experience the resurrection power of Christ that worked for him – for his salvation -- and was at work in him. He wanted to know with head and heart, with intellect and by experience. He says in verse 10 that the desire of His heart is this: “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection...” (Philippians 3:10a, ESV) These things were the twin aspirations of his heart.

### That I May Know Him

Paul says. “I want to know Christ.” Now this is the guy who knew Christ well, who spent 3 years in Arabia being trained by Him and his desire is to know Christ and that tells us two things. First, it tells us that knowing Christ is a lifetime pursuit. And second, it tells us that knowledge about Christ is insufficient. It cannot be an end in itself, but a means to an end. The goal is to inflame the heart. The filling of the mind should feed the soul. The knowledge of Christ that Paul pursued was both intimate and personal. Listen to the way that Spurgeon describes this desire because it is so good. He says: “Imagine for a moment that you are living in the age of the Roman emperors. You have been captured by Roman soldiers and dragged from your native country; you have been sold for a slave, stripped, whipped, branded, imprisoned, and treated with shameful cruelty. At last you are appointed to die in the amphitheatre, to make holiday for a tyrant. The populace assembles with delight. There they are, tens of thousands of them, gazing down from the living sides of the capacious Colosseum. You stand alone, and naked, armed only with a single dagger—a poor defense against gigantic beasts. A ponderous door is drawn up by machinery, and forth there rushes the monarch of the forest—a huge lion; you must slay him or be torn to pieces. You are absolutely certain that the conflict is too stern for you, and that the sure result must and will be that those terrible teeth will grind your bones and drip with your blood. You tremble; your joints are loosed; you are paralyzed with fear, like the

timid deer when the lion has dashed it to the ground. But what is this? O wonder of mercy!—a deliverer appears. A great unknown leaps from among the gazing multitude, and confronts the savage monster. He quails not at the roaring of the devourer, but dashes upon him with terrible fury, till, like a whipped cur, the lion slinks towards his den, dragging himself along in pain and fear. The hero lifts you up, smiles into your bloodless face, whispers comfort in your ear, and bids you be of good courage, for you are free. Do you not think that there would arise at once in your heart a desire to know your deliverer?” Of course you would, right beloved? But even that desire must pale by comparison to the desire to know the One who has delivered you from eternal torment, ruin, and destruction. Beloved, when you encounter the crucified and risen Christ as He is, as the only Savior and the only Lord, and the Holy Son of God and Redeemer of sinners from hell and death, and you embrace Him by faith, you will desire to know this Christ more and more, to know Him in His fullness, to know His ways, to know His will, to know Him.

Having been delivered from death by Christ, Paul could not satisfy himself with doctrines about Christ – though he taught much of what we know, nor with second hand knowledge of Christ. Nor can we if we realize all that He has done for us. You have to know Him for yourself and because He is risen from the dead, you can! Because Christ has in reality been raised from the dead, never to die again, we can meet with Him, really meet with Him, in the pages of Holy Scripture and be instructed by Him as He personally reveals Himself to us in His Word. This is a supernatural mystery and a wonder to be sure, but is not religious mumbo jumbo, not just some Christianese. It is the truth. Because He has risen from the dead, we can meet with Him in prayer, He can truly comfort our souls, He can manifest His presence with us in worship – both private and corporate, and He can embolden us and give us strength to persevere and courage to be faithful.

Knowing Christ is not the same as knowing about Christ. To know Christ in a saving, sanctifying way means that you do not simply know things about Him, but you know Him in your trusting Him, in your loving Him, in your delighting in Him, in your treasuring Him, and in your worshipping Him. To know Christ is to know Him in all His benefits and in all His work. It is to know Him as a real person in the reality of your everyday life. I cannot emphasize this enough. In our culture we are losing the concept of what it means to really know someone. With all of our social media and superficiality and social awkwardness, of entertainment and distractions and self-absorption we are losing the concept of really knowing someone in an intimate way and yet that is exactly what Paul is talking about here – knowing Christ intimately as a person not as a religious abstraction or figure from history. Spurgeon says that his desire is this: He will not be to me a myth, a vision, a spirit, but a person, a real solid person, as much real as I am

myself, or as my dearest friend can be to me. My soul, never be satisfied within a shadowy Christ. My heart, be thou never content until he hath embraced thy soul, and proved to thee that he is the lover of his people. This knowledge, then, must be a knowledge of him in his personality. Then, beloved, it must be a personal knowledge on our part. I cannot know Christ through another person's brains. I cannot love him with another man's heart, and I cannot see him with another man's eyes. Heaven's delight is, "Mine eyes shall see him and not another." These eyes shall behold the King in his beauty. Well, beloved, if this be heaven, we certainly cannot do without a personal sight of Christ here. I am so afraid of living in a second-hand religion. God forbid that I should get a biographical experience. Lord save us from having borrowed communion.

Beloved, Christ has risen from the dead to be known. He gives Himself to be known. We can know Him. We can know Him through His Word, through worship, through meditation on His truth, through prayer we get to know a living Jesus. He is our Creator, Redeemer, Savior, Sustainer and we are His people, and He wants us to know Him. This is at the heart of a real, true, saving and satisfying faith. It changes everything – a resurrected living Lord, alive right know to be known – it changes everything. When we really want to know Christ we read His Word not in some disaffected way or as some utilitarian necessity; we read because we are seeking to know His heart, to comprehend His will and His ways. When we pray we are not trying to sound spiritual or going through the motions of saying our prayers, we calling upon our Lord, our Master, calling upon the One whom we delight in and desire and we are pursuing a deeper relationship with Him. When we obey Him, it is not out of duty or obligation but from a heart that desires to please the one whom we know and love. When we serve him, it is not simply some task or chore that we must accomplish, but an opportunity to express our affection to Christ. When we give we are not paying our dues but investing in His Kingdom. When our paramount desire is to know Christ, He becomes the central hub of our lives, the central reality, the central relationship above all others. There is only one inexhaustible person and that is Jesus Christ. Paul wanted to know Him

#### And the Power of His Resurrection

That is the heart of Paul – knowing Christ and knowing the power of the resurrection. Paul is telling us that there is nothing merely academic about the resurrection of Christ from the dead. It is not mythology or wishful thinking. It is not even merely good theology. But the same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead, that broke the power of sin and the sting



of death, is the very same power that is at work in us now as the children of God. Paul wanted to know Christ personally and the power of his resurrection – not only what it accomplished but how it affects him and every believer now, personally.

Paul is yearning to experience the practical difference the resurrection makes to life right now. He is longing to enter fully into the experience of the resurrection life right now. When you encounter the crucified and risen Christ as He is, as the only Savior and the only Lord, and the Holy Son of God and Redeemer of sinners from hell and death, you want to experience the power of Christ's resurrection right now.

Paul wanted to know that sense of victory, the sense of freedom, the sense of boldness that comes when the fear of death is removed. The power of the resurrection removes all fear of death because death has lost its sting for believers. He wants to know the power to conquer temptation – the indwelling power of Christ's Spirit to reject temptation and instead to live a life that is pleasing to Christ. He wants to know the resurrection power that is available, the life of the Spirit, the unction of the risen Christ that gives the power for service to Christ -- for preaching, teaching, encouraging, working hard for His glory, serving tables. He wants to know the reality of the resurrection power as the power to overcome trials and which makes you strong when you're weak, the power for witnessing and boldness. He wants to be strengthened by the spirit in the inner man, to know the glorious might of Christ in His life. He wants to know the freedom, the joy, the sense of confidence anchored in Christ's resurrection. He didn't want to wait till heaven...He wants that power to impact and change Him now.

I get that desire. We understand that, don't we? We know that Christ redeemed us that we so that we would be holy; eager to do what is pleasing in his sight. We know that He gives us, by his Spirit, power to resist the lusts of this world and to live according to the will of God. We know that we ought to have as our aim the desire to follow Christ wherever he leads, to honor Christ in all that we do, and to give loving obedience to our Master all the days of our lives. We know that when we stand before the Lord we are going to very much want, want more than we have wanted anything in all our lives, to have lived in a manner worthy of our calling, pleasing to God, having made full use of His grace, fully living and enjoying the grace and salvation we have received. We will want to have lived our lives adorning the doctrines of God our Savior with authenticity, holiness, and love for God and the power of the resurrection guarantees that we can. This is not some wishful thinking that can never be – this is the power of the resurrection in that is available to us right now.

That is heart of what it means to be joined to Christ by faith. “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:3–11, ESV) We are new creatures with a new life in Christ. We walk in the newness of life because we have been raised from the dead with Christ. Paul wants us to know what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. (Eph 1:19-20, ESV)

Do you believe this? We really are people who have the privilege of living a new resurrection life with Christ. Christ was raised from the dead, and we have been brought from death to life. We must set our hearts on this and always see ourselves from this perspective. Our old life is dead. Our new life is found in Jesus Christ. We have been renewed, we have a new self -- and the purpose of that new self is to be conformed to the image of Christ, to become like him: truly righteous, truly holy -- to become what God has declared us to be by Christ’s work on the cross.

We do this by walking in resurrection power right now. How do we walk in resurrection power? It’s no great secret beloved. We experience the fullness of the power of Christ’s resurrection by faith. Paul’s longing is to overcome sin, not by a carnal, fleshly adherence to the Law, but by faith in the indwelling Christ who gives His people resurrection power. It is like Paul wrote to the Galatians about our lives in Christ saying : “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20, ESV)

We lay hold of this resurrection power through faith in Christ, drawing on His resurrection power ministered to us by His indwelling Spirit, and not personal resolutions and reformation.

Holiness does not come by imposing stronger and more stringent rules meant to govern our conduct. It is not born out of guilt for not living up to the standards of God. Precepts without Christ are impossible commands. The commands of Christ are impossible in the power of the flesh to obey. True obedience from the heart comes by laying hold of the renewing and sanctifying power of the resurrection in us by faith. Christ is not only a Redeemer from sin but the author of new life in those that trust in Him and we lay hold of that resurrection life as we abide in Him. Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (Joh 15:4-5 ESV) Jesus tells us clearly what is required if we would bear spiritual fruit, if we would be obedient to the commands of God. We cannot do it on our own. How could we resist temptation, and take up our own cross and deny ourselves? How can we love their neighbors as ourselves without the new life of Christ enabling us? How can we love our enemies without the life of the One who prayed for his enemies filling our own hearts? How can we turn the other cheek without Christ's resurrection life? How can we serve the church and the world without that strength? How can we preach without the power of Christ's resurrection but we do not have to. Christ has obeyed all of the commands of God for us and if we walk with Him, abiding in Him, He will do the same in us as we walk in union with Him drawing our life from Him. That is the wonder of resurrection power. In ourselves, we have no life, or strength, or spiritual power. Joined to the Lord by faith, and united with Him by the Spirit, we have life, and strength and power to run the Christian race.

Beloved, when Paul says he wants to know the power of the resurrection, he is aiming at a life - already his but capable of far more development - that is conformed to the life won for him and for all believers by the risen Christ - a life of peace with God, freedom from the fear of death, a life marked by the truth of justification, of redemption, of adoption, a life filled with righteousness rooted in Christ who died and rose again, a life of service and worship, a life of holiness and faithfulness, a life marked by the grace of God.

We are resurrection people. That is who we are. Believe it. Beloved, encountering the crucified and risen Christ creates a hunger to know Him and to experience personally the fullness of the power of His resurrection right now. And when Christ is your life, you will be willing to share in sufferings and stay faithful to Him no matter what. That is what Paul means when he says at end of verse 10 and verse 11 that he desires to (become) like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Philippians 3:10-11, ESV)

Paul knows that knowing Christ and walking in the power of the resurrection is going to bring Him suffering and we know it to be true as well, don't we? Knowing Christ, loving Christ supremely, standing uncompromisingly on His truth, preaching the gospel as it truly is, seeking to live righteously in this present evil age – it brings with it suffering. It brings with it the hatred of the world, the hatred of the merely religious, the persecution of the ungodly, the pain of living in a world that increasingly blasphemes the glory of our Savior, mocking, scorn, the loss of reputation, sometimes physical violence, the loss of relationships we once treasured, the suffering even of God's discipline. But listen; when you encounter the crucified and risen Christ as He is, as the only Savior and the only Lord, and the Holy Son of God and Redeemer of sinners from hell and death, when He captivates your heart and your soul, you are willing whatever suffering that righteousness requires, longing to remain faithful to Him. Jesus was obedient unto death, he was faithful in His death to redeem a people for His own possession and Paul is longing for that same thing. I want to be faithful, to be obedient, to be whole hearted in my pursuit of Christ no matter the cost – that is what He is saying. It was worth it as long as he attained the resurrection life now and in the age to come.

Beloved, our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection is a literal fact. He is a real Man who died the cruel death of the Cross, a real Man who rose from the dead bearing in His body the marks of His suffering. This literal fact gives reality to everything that comes from Him and through Him. Justification is real. Adoption is a reality. Propitiation for our sins has been accomplished, atonement made, regeneration of the soul a true fact. The blessings of the gospel are all real facts and not mere theological imagination. Because the resurrection of Christ from the dead is a plain and visible fact, the hope of knowing Christ intimately, of knowing Him personally and experiencing the power of His resurrection to enable us to live godly in the present evil age --- these are actual and available realities and not religious make-believe.

How I pray, for those who know Christ, that afresh and anew, our hearts would be flooded with joy in the confidence that you are accepted, beloved, and delighted in by the Lord Jesus Christ – that He has given Himself to you to be known and that He has given to you the very power to live by which He was raised from the dead.

For those who are here today who do not know Christ -- Believe! Believe in Jesus. Repent of your sin, turn away from your sin and believe who He is and what He has done. Cast your hope on him alone. Confess your sins to God and call on the name of the Lord Jesus for your salvation

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