

Sermon Reflections

Power of the Resurrection (Selected Scriptures)

Summary: Rely on Jesus' resurrecting power to sustain your whole Christian life, from the beginning, through middle, to the end

1. Beginning: Power for Overcoming Unbelief (Ephesians 1:15-2:10)

- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead (physically) has raised you from the dead (spiritually), if you are in Christ. Meditate on the power of God over his Creation in that he can defy death itself. Meditate on the power and goodness of God in calling you to himself and saving you through his grace despite your nature as a child destined for wrath.
- Do you rely on Christ's power to sustain you in your daily walk? What are some ways you can learn to depend less on your own power and depend more on the power of Christ? What are some steps you can take to ensure your prayer life both exists and flourishes individually and corporately?

2. Middle: Power for Fighting Sin (Romans 6:1-14)

- As mentioned during the sermon, the first command in this passage is to *consider* how we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ (v. 11). When you fight sin, do you tend to jump straight to action and forget to think carefully about your new status in Christ? Why do we tend to forget this crucial step in our fight against sin? In your battle with sin, daily meditate on what Christ has done for you.
- What are some practical steps you can take this week towards fighting specific sins in your life? How can you infuse these steps with the truth of Christ's victory over sin and the death of your sin on the cross? Who is someone you can similarly encourage in his or her battles?
- As a believer who is therefore no longer a slave to sin, you are now free to "present yourselves... and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (v. 14). What are some ways you can be an instrument of righteousness today? What are some specific good works that you can walk in (Ephesians 2:10) this week that will glorify the name of Christ?

3. End: Power for Getting to Heaven (I Peter 1:1-13)

- In a world where everything seems fleeting, we have "an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (v. 4). How can the surety of our eternal inheritance with Christ sustain you through the trials of this life?
- The same power that raised Christ from the dead, set you free from sin, and is sustaining your faith is also guarding your inheritance in eternity. Take hope in our risen and victorious Christ. He will sustain you to the end. Run with endurance until we reach the prize.