

2 CORINTHINANS 4:13-15 PART 1

PAUL & THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION.

REVIEW/INTRO:

- If we want to know the power of God, we must know something of the sufferings and the death.
- I have 4 points to consider from our 3 verses:
 - 1) The strength and resoluteness of what we believe, our faith.
 - 2) The joy and confidence of the resurrection.
 - 3) The consolation and comfort of divine providence.
 - 4) Paul the example:

READ: **2 Cor. 4:13-15**

1) THE STRENGTH AND RESOLUTNESS OF FAITH: VS. 13

- The intent in the original would begin this verse with the little conjunction, "but." But' is a conjunction used to introduce something contrasting with what has already been mentioned.
- Even in difficult times we do not get discouraged, for we believe that all that God is in control and He is good.
- The contrast is that even if we are assailed by constant trials we do not sit down and pout, we do not succumb to self-pity or celebrate a pity party, "but" we have the same attitude of triumphant faith as David.
- The same faith, expectant, believing attitude of the sweet Psalmist David who wrote Ps 116 where this quotation is taken from.
- He walked the walk, his walk and talk we complementary, in agreement.
- Spirit of faith: the attitude of faith, or the outlook of faith.
- Let's look for a moment at the faith of David, faith in His faithful God.
 - **1 Sam. 17**: He experienced God's help and believed God now. God had not changed. VS **34-36a**
 - So David spoke according to his faith and experience, Vs. **26, 32, 36b, 45-47.**
 - He acted, he ran; vs. **22,48-50**
- David spoke from the heart what he believed, unwavering. (Rom 10:10)

2) THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION: VS. 14:

- Knowing: being fully confident. Having absolute assurance.
- Knowing, absolute assurance of the resurrection as a coming reality produced such confidence and consolation that Paul, like James could say...Count it all joy.
- This assurance and expectation of the resurrection was the seed bed of their resolve. See 5:1

- This same assurance sustained the early church and propelled them forward even in the face of horrific trials and sufferings and death.
- They lived out their beliefs that "this world was not their home, not their kingdom.
- The great motivation for Paul and the early saints was not reaching retirement, getting a new promotion at work, a raise, or a new home, etc, it was the reality and expectation in their hearts of the resurrection.
- Due to the pursuit of the earthly kingdom many today have forfeited the joy of eternity. Their joy has been choked out. **Rom. 14:17**
- **Raised with Jesus:** "by," "with," "through; His resurrection.
 - With Him, when He returns, with or through the power of His resurrection and life, by union with Him.
 - Rom.8:11; But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through (or because of) His Spirit who dwells in you.
 - The resurrection of Christ is the pledge and certainty of the resurrection of His Bride..... Just as certain! His life secures our life.
 - Jn. 14:19, Because I live, you will live also.
 - 1 Cor. 6:14; And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.
 - 1 Thess. 4:14, For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus., Eph. 2:6, Col. 2:12
 - It is at the resurrection that the full work of redemption shall be consummated. It is then we shall receive our full salvation, being glorified.
 - We shall be introduced into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, receiving then our full inheritance. Eph. 1:11,14, 2 Cor. 5:1-5,1 Peter 1:3, 4, Rom. 8.
 - This was the truth that sustained and motivated Paul. He did not lose heart.
- **To Present:** to cause to stand, to stand near. (wedding pronouncement)
 - Col. 1:21, 22; And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to **present you** holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight
 - Jude 24, to **present you** faultless before the presence of His glory.
 - Eph. 5:27; that He might **present her** to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
 - Jesus will present us, cause us to stand near, before His Holy Father, clothed in His blood washed robes as ransomed, recovered, redeemed and righteous, never to be removed.