

Resurrection Life: “Dying to Live”

David A. Renwick, May 25, 2014

The National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

Matthew 16:24-26; Philippians 3:4-12; Romans 12:1-2

I. SINCE EASTER:

1. Resurrection: An Event in the Past

“Let us not mock God with metaphor” (John Updike, 7 Stanzas At Easter)

2. Resurrection: God’s “Yes!”

a. A Confirmation Of Jesus’ Claims to Divinity (“mad, bad or God” C.S. Lewis)

b. A Confirmation Of the Effectiveness of Jesus’ Death as a “death for sin”

“He was wounded for ur transgressions, bruised for our iniquities,
on him was laid the chastisement that made us whole” Isaiah 53

3. Resurrection: A Source of Our Present Power

Luke 10: The Good Samaritan’s endless love

John 15: The Good Shepherd’s endless supply:

“I am the vine you are the branches. Abide in (connected to) me as I abide in you,
and you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.”

Revelation 3:20: The resurrected Jesus is waiting for us to welcome him in!

II. TODAY

1. The Resurrected Jesus who wants to live within us, is none other than the Crucified Jesus, who calls us follow him into “death and resurrection”

a. Negatively: No Resurrection without Death/Suffering (*Philippians 3:10*)

b. Positively: No Death/Suffering (for Christians) without promise of Resurrection . . . John 12:24-26. . . “unless a grain of wheat dies . . .”

Matthew 16:24-26 “take up your cross; lose life for my sake -- find it.”

2. Comfort:

-- Resurrection ALWAYS follows Death! (*God at work in the midst of death*)

a. Some live life subject to Forces Beyond their Control “robbing” them of life: political, economic, relational, medical, mental; religious persecution (1986: *The Mission*; 2013, John L. Allen *The Global War on Christians*)

b. At the Center of Christian Faith: A Crucified and Resurrected man (Mary Craig, *Blessings*)

3. Challenge: Some live life that is Comfortable and Good

-- Resurrection ONLY follows Death!

a. Remember Jesus: John 12:24-26, Matthew 16:24-26 . . .

b. Paul: Romans 12:1-2 “Present your bodies a living sacrifice to God”

c. The Path of Servanthood, Suffering, and Sacrifice – as a choice

The Warrior Creed (www.army.mil/values)

The Triumph of Christianity (Rodney Stark)