

THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 12
1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

1. When Christ comes again, we will be transformed from: (1 Corinthians 15:50-54)

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|------------------------|--|---------|----|-------------------------|
| perishable | to | imperishable | | natural | to | <u>spiritual</u> |
| dishonorable | to | <u>glorious</u> | | mortal | to | immortal |
| <u>weak</u> | to | powerful | | earthly | to | <u>heavenly</u> |

2. Therefore, we **prove** our assurance of salvation and our **thankfulness** by being steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

KEY THOUGHT: Paul’s final statement in chapter 15 is an exhortation to the Corinthians to be **changed** by what they have read about the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:58).

I. THE GREAT EXHORTATION (1 COR. 15:58)

- A. **Choose** to be “steadfast” and “immovable” (1 Cor. 15:58).

1. Steadfast means to be “seated”; **firmly fixed** in direction and purpose.
2. To be immovable means fixed and **incapable** of being moved.

- B. **Decide** to be “always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

1. “Abounding” carries the idea of exceeding the boundaries, of **overflowing**, or overdoing (John 10:10).
2. We never **retire** from serving God, take a vacation from holiness, or **rest** from doing good.

KEY THOUGHT: Our praise and thanksgiving needs to be given **hands** and **feet** because the Lord is aware (Rev. 22:12).

II. THE JOY OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING (TITUS 2:11-14)

*We must prove we “**possess**” what we “**profess**”.*

- A. As Christians, we are **redeemed** and purified (Titus 2:14a).

1. To “redeem” is to release someone held captive on **payment** of a ransom.

2. To “purify” indicates being sanctified or “**set apart**” for God.
- B. A **special** people confirmed by salvation and reserved by God’s decree (Titus 2:14b).

KEY THOUGHT: It is in daily living that **practical** holiness can best show itself (Lev. 11:45; 2 Thess. 1:11).

III. **MY RESPONSE TO THE RESURRECTION (COL. 3:1-4)**

- A. A life **hidden** in Christ (Col. 3:3)
1. My relationship with my Lord brings a **depth** to my life that no other relationship can, and the “**burden**” is light.
 2. I do not **regret** the closeness/transparency this relationship brings.
 3. Every revelation of the wishes of my Lord is a **fresh delight** and privilege.
 4. No road is considered too **hard** to **travel**.
- B. Christ is my **life** (Col. 3:4).
1. “**Being with** my Lord” is precious throughout the day (John 17:22-23).
 2. Prayer is about my Lord’s **will** and not my own (1 Cor. 2:16).
 3. Telling others about my Lord is a **natural** expression of my **love** for Him (John 4:28-30).
 4. Meet my Lord’s **measureless** devotion for me with a measureless devotion for Him (John 4:34; Col. 1:28-29).

KEY THOUGHT: **Rejoice** in the path God has marked out for you, and **grieve** for your friends who have missed this precious joy (Ps. 28:7; 1 Thess. 1:6).

MY RESPONSE TO THE RESURRECTION

- Read the Bible **every** day. Write **one** line minimum in a journal.
- Practice biblical **thinking** about my day.
- Intentionally seek to **bless** one person per day.
- I will invite _____ to church on Easter Sunday.
- Tell **two** people this week, “God loves you”.

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

April 17, 2011

SUNDAY: ***The resurrection of Jesus Christ should impact and change the life of every Christian (1 Cor. 15:58)!*** When Jesus comes again, the dead in Christ will rise again (1 Thess. 4:16). We will be completely changed, transformed into spiritual, heavenly bodies (1 Cor. 15:50-54). Until that moment in time, we prove our assurance of our salvation and demonstrate our thankfulness by being steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). It is not a multiple choice equation where we can choose one of the aforementioned options. Paul says in verse 58 that every Christian should be radically changed by the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior (1 Cor. 15:58). Is that true for you? Where is your greatest struggle? Ask the Lord for the courage to seek accountability and fellowship to tackle the issues that are holding you back from living a radically changed lifestyle for Christ. ***May this be the greatest Easter season recently in your Christian life!***

MONDAY: ***Choose to be steadfast (1 Cor. 15:58)!*** Paul gives a command “to be” three things in the Lord. First, Paul states that the Christian is to be steadfast in the doctrine and its practice: firmly fixed in a specific direction and to have a firm direction. Immovable is a stronger way to say steadfast. The intensity would indicate that you are to be incapable of being moved. Unfortunately, Christians are too lackadaisical about their doctrine and the practice of it. That is a kind way of saying they are very lazy about knowing what the Bible says about holiness and godly living. If some Christians know what the Bible says on the topic of personal holiness, they have chosen not to be steadfast or immovable. Would you be willing in light of the power of the resurrection in your life to make a commitment to be steadfast in your doctrine and its practice? Committing to being steadfast is not a process but a firm commitment. God will help you make that commitment more fruitful as your days unfold. ***May the power of the Holy Spirit seize control of each Christian that has chosen to be steadfast in his/her faith and practice!***

TUESDAY: ***We never retire from serving God (1 Cor. 15:58)!*** Decide to be always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). This is an idea of constant work that exceeded the known boundaries of effort for the work of the Lord. This is directly contrary to the Christians that expend as little energy as possible in the areas of prayer, service within the church, or suffer as little as they can. Paul develops the argument that we cannot afford to be content with the trivial things of this life if we desire significant intimacy with God. The question would confront the Christian about how can we “take it easy” when so many people all around us are struggling spiritually or are spiritually dead. Christians can never take a vacation from holiness or rest from “doing good”! Are you actively using your spiritual gifts, or have you granted yourself a “hall pass”? The resurrection of Jesus Christ should invigorate every Christian to leap into the work of the kingdom because of all that has been done for them. Ask the Lord if you were meant to be the exception to Paul’s “call to arms”. If not, where does God want you to serve? ***May the work of the kingdom excite your heart because it is the “family business” of the Christian!***

WEDNESDAY: ***The resurrection is evidence that Christians are redeemed and purified (Titus 2:14)!*** There is to be joy in righteous living (Titus 2:11-14). Our lives with God should be stimulating. The instructions of the Bible should cause vigorous discussion among the

brethren, and our accountability to one another should be very high. There is a very powerful saying if we take it to heart, “We must prove we ‘possess’ what we ‘profess’.” First and foremost, Christians are redeemed and purified (Titus 2:14a). We are redeemed from the slave block of sin and the destiny of being separated from the virtuous side of God’s character. By the work of Christ upon the cross, each Christian’s ransom payment has been made. Purification is ongoing and indicates the work of sanctification being done in my soul. The process has already “set me a part” for God while I am still traveling arduously through it. My response is disingenuous if my continued education in scripture does not lead to significant steps forward in my personal holiness and desire for godliness. Has this study of the resurrection moved your heart to greater service for God out of gratitude and joy? Ask the Lord to help you see where you must step forward now to demonstrate your passion for personal holiness. ***May the days ahead produce the fruit of being in the presence of your Lord!***

THURSDAY: ***Daily living should reveal our practical holiness (2 Thess. 1:11)!*** Titus 2:14 refers to Christians as a special, or peculiar, people. The thought is that we should stand out in the community where we live. It should be obvious to everyone that we are Christians and serve our God faithfully and sacrificially. It is the daily practice of holiness that demonstrates the power of the resurrection in our lives. We have been commanded to practice living like our God Himself (Lev. 11:45). Holiness is not something we should strive to attain in the next life, but each Christian should seek to be living worthy of the call of your salvation (2 Thess. 1:11). “Why don’t you place more emphasis on personal holiness every day? It is a shame that many people think the most spiritual men around are the Buddhist monks they may have encountered. Choose to be steadfast and immovable in your doctrine and practice. Ask the Lord what is your largest hindrance from being steadfast and immovable. ***May you trust God more every day and rely on yourself less!***

FRIDAY: ***No road is considered too hard to travel for my Lord (Col. 3:3)!*** My personal response to the resurrection is to choose to be steadfast and immovable. That decision has demanded that I be serious about personal holiness. This has brought greater depth into my relationship with the Lord. The requirements of this commitment have not seemed heavy to me at all. I accept the transparency this deeper relationship with the Lord brings and the elevated demands for peacemaking and reconciliation with others I live around. Regular reading of the Bible reveals the wishes of my Lord, and each is seen as a fresh challenge and a privilege to please Him. The Lord continues to stretch me, and when I am ready, He presents another stretch of road to traverse. Though the road can be difficult, it is never more than I can travel on His behalf. Do not be afraid, the Lord will never give you more than you can handle. Praise Him for His provision, and ask for strength to accomplish what He has outlined for you. ***May your faith grow every time you take a step forward!***

SATURDAY: ***Christ is my life (Col. 3:4)!*** “Christ is my life” is not a prayer but a statement of fact for me as a Christian (Col. 3:4). I have chosen to meet my Lord’s measureless devotion toward me with a measureless devotion for Him (John 4:34; Col. 1:28-29). Rejoice in the path that the Lord has marked out for you. Grieve for those that you know that do not know Him as Lord and Savior and are missing the precious joy you enjoy (1 Thess. 1:6). Pray for the strength to step forward, and ask your friends to come to worship with you on Easter Sunday. ***May the truth of who you are in Christ lift you higher and draw you closer to the Lord!***