

Sermon Handout

The Fellowship of His Suffering

Philippians 3:1-15

I. St. Paul's train of thought vv. 1-15

- a. A warning necessary for their safety v. 1
- b. Beware of the "dogs," "evil workers," "mutilators" v. 2
- c. Christians are the true circumcision v. 3
- d. Shedding my own "righteousness" vv. 4-7
 "confidence in the flesh" is trusting in outward forms
- e. Knowing Christ in faith is all that matters vv. 8-9
- f. What "knowing him" involves vv. 10-11
- g. Moving on to deeper faith and trust in Jesus vv. 12-15

II. Knowing the power of Christ's resurrection v. 10a

- a. Experiential "knowing" *cf.* v. 8; *see* Jn 17:3, 25
- b. The power of Christ's resurrection Heb 1:3; Rom 1:3-5
 The dynamic that sets us free Heb 2:14-15 *cf.* Rom 4:24-25
- c. We are joined with Christ in his resurrection Eph 2:5-6, 10; Col 3:1; Rom 6:4
 By it, we have power over sin Rom 8:11; 6:8-13

III. Knowing the fellowship of Jesus' sufferings v. 10b

- a. We "participate" in his sufferings through his resurrection Jn 7:6-8
- b. Participation involves our mystical union with Jesus
 Unbelief hates Jesus & hates us Jn 15:18-21 *cf.* 13:16; Mt 10:24-25
- c. Paul has "suffered loss" for Jesus (stature in the Hebrew community) v. 8
 It involves "giving up our righteousness" Rom 1:17; Isa 64:6

IV. Being conformed to Jesus' death v. 10c

- a. We are crucified with Christ Gal 2:20; Rom 6:6
- b. We are released from bondage to sin Heb 2:14-15; Rom 6:5-6
 Thus allowing us to live by faith in Jesus Gal 6:14
- c. We are to forget those things that are behind us v. 13
 Including self-righteous works and sin *cf.* vv. 5-6
- d. We are to press toward the high calling of God v. 14
 Our completion in Christ beckons us forward v. 15