

## Acts 28 – The Great N.T. dispensational divide

Phils.3 – that I may know him and the power of his resurrection

Phils.3 – if by any means I might attain a resurrection out of the dead

Rewards for faithful service 05

We have considered a righteousness resulting from faithful works which is for your thoughtful study. See the previous and other lesson at [acts28.net/lessons](http://acts28.net/lessons). This is only a suggestion, but the idea could fit in the Philippians 3 context.

*More than that, I now regard all things as liabilities compared to the far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things— indeed, I regard them as dung! – that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness – a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness. My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings, and to be like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.* Php 3:8b-11. NET.

We know that we have been saved unto good works, Eph.2:8-10, and by faith in Christ have the righteousness of God by reckoning because of his grace. I doubt Paul is hoping in Phils.3 that he is still righteous by grace, having written assuredly that this was secured by grace and not works. To write that he wants to be found in Christ with that righteousness suggests he might not attain it, but this is impossible if it is by grace, he already had it. We do not lose the righteousness reckoned by grace, but we could strive, like Paul, to be found in the righteousness of good works that lead to the prize and reward.

Paul has known Christ since the road to Damascus, but this context is about things that accompany salvation so Paul wants to know him in the matter of his resurrection, his sufferings and his death. Likewise, when Paul writes to be found in him does not mean he has lost the secure position of being in Christ by faith, but to be found in him with the same righteousness of faithfulness.

Paul counted all things as dung which is works after initial faith in Christ and by faith. Paul cast aside things that were previously important to him “if by any means” he might obtain that resurrection out from the dead. If by any means, striving to attain does not suggest certainty as the appearance of this phrase, if by any means, in Acts 27:12 proves. Uncertainty is not righteousness by grace through faith. This is why the phrase “if by any means” gives weight to the idea the righteousness here is that of works.

When Paul resorts to “any means” he has left the basics of righteousness by faith and has moved along with the cross he has been given to bear so that his sufferings will be filled up, Col.1:24. In this way, I believe, Paul is seeking the “fellowship of his sufferings” which leads to the conformity of Christ's death. Christ's death was the end of his humiliation; sufferings and the consequence of his total obedience as recorded in Phils.2:5-8. Paul wanted to experience the sufferings of Christ, being made conformable to his death, if by any means he might attain that resurrection out from the dead, the same resurrection Christ received as one who endured the suffering and shame and was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

What is the power of Christ's resurrection, and what is the out-resurrection from among the dead?

Paul sought the power of Christ's resurrection for himself, the power that brought Christ up from the grave, Roms.1:4. This power was exercised prior to the resurrection common to all those of faith. Christ was raised out from among other dead saints who would later experience their resurrection. In Mk.9 the Lord requested the disciples not disclose the events on the mount of transfiguration until after he was raised [out] from the dead and they did not understand that resurrection he was talking about.

*And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead [ex, out]. And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from [ex, out] the dead should mean. Mar 9:9-10.*

The disciples knew of the resurrection of the dead at the last day, Jn.5, 11:24, Psa.17:15, 49:15, Isa.25:8, 26:19, Ez.37:12-14, Dan.12:2, & Job 19:25-26. They did not understand the Lord saying he would be resurrected prior to and out from [ex] among those who would be resurrected at the last day. This same preposition ex is prefixed with the word resurrection, [exanastasis,] in Phils.3:11.

*if somehow I may attain to a [ex, out]resurrection out of the dead. Php 3:11. LITV.*

The power of Christ's resurrection was the power that raised him prior to the appointed time for the rest of the dead. We know of resurrections at the summer feast of Trumpets, 1Cor.15, 1Thess.4, but Christ was raised as the firstfruits in the spring feast of Unleavened Bread, months before time.

Here are features of Christ's out-resurrection that we should be considering when we read Philipians.

Christ was raised within the appointed, Feast calendar program of Israel. The Appearing, our hope, is part of, or prior to the Feast of Trumpets.

Christ was out-raised before his glorification at the Appearing and second coming.

Christ was out-raised with an immortal body which could transport itself, vanish and appear at will, hide its identity, eat food, be touched, be recognized by his friends and which carried over the features of the earthly body as in wounds received, Lk.24, Jn.21. I don't think this means any fleshly abnormalities we might have by birth or accident will carry over.

Christ was out-raised with a body functioning in both the earthly and heavenly sphere as he ascended and descended between them, Jn.20:17, Acts 9, Eph.4.

Christ was out-raised and continued his teaching ministry to the same disciples in the same divine purposes, Acts 1:1-3.

Christ was out-raised and revealed more about the Scriptures, and then revealed the present previously hidden dispensation of the grace of God. Christ was out-raised and ministered in two different divine programs.

With these facts before us as we consider Phils.3, is Paul, after striving for the likeness of Christ's righteousness, the power of Christ's resurrection, the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and death in total obedience, and striving for that out-resurrection, is Paul moving on to glimpse at what that out-resurrection might mean for us? I believe we might consider the closing verses of this chapter a future view of what the out-resurrection might be for those worthy to attain it.

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* Php 3:13-14.

*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.* Php 3:20-21.

The following are only my thoughts, there are others with sharper minds and this is not false humility, but we are joints and bands and so we study together to work towards the truth of the word rightly divided.

The prize here is linked with the high calling of God, which could mean the present dispensation of the grace of God, or the upward call of God.

*with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* Php 3:14.  
NET.

The upward call, prize, crown are all before Paul as he forgot those things behind and reached forth if by any means. The prize, linked to this out-resurrection, could mean we are called upward to heavenly places prior to the other members of the body of Christ; that is, prior to the appearing. It could mean the upward call from the grave, or the upward call to heavenly places given to the prize members after they have been out-resurrected and spent some time on the earth.

Paul writes that our conversation/citizenship is in heaven and this original word in Phils.3:20 is from the original word translated conversation in Phils.1:27 and which word, as a compound, occurs in Eph.2:19. Ephesians tells us we have been raised and seated in the heavenly places, Eph.1:15-2:10, and that we have been and are an inheritance there, Eph.1:5,11, but in Phils.3:20 we are waiting for the Savior from there. This could mean we have been out-resurrected to the earth prior to the Appearing.

When we compare our Lord's out-resurrection, which features I listed above, we note he was out-resurrected to a considerable time on the earth, transferring himself between earth and heaven, and was interacting with two divine purposes. This because he had a body of glory. We however, as Phils.3:21 might suggest, will have our bodies changed after the out-resurrection.

Perhaps we, like the Lord will be out-resurrected, even if the earthly program has resumed, and spend some time interacting with others on the earth, with a natural body prior to the upward call to the appearing. When will the Lord change our bodies? It would be impossible to spend time on earth prior to our bodies being changed and at the same time enjoy the privilege of transferring between both spheres as the Lord did.

If we are out-resurrected before the appearing, then our bodies, like the Acts period saints and 1Cor.15 and 1 Thess.4, would be changed when the other members of the body of Christ are resurrected in time for the appearing, then we, the out-resurrected ones being changed to a body like his body of glory, and the raised body members would rise together for the appearing. Perhaps 1Cor.15 and 1Thess.4 are patterns.

We cannot dismiss the possibility that Phils.3:20 could fit in the Acts period. Citizenship might refer to the Jerusalem which is above and those saints were certainly waiting for the return of Christ from heaven. Perhaps by divine will it fits both callings because they are united in the various aspects of the hope, though one is earthly and the other heavenly.

In any event I am praying that this lesson will inspire more study about the out-resurrection, the prize, crown, reward and the upward call.

We are all students of the Word.

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# Philippians 3

## Warning win out-resurrection prize warning

**3:1-3** Rejoice – [Beware x 3, dogs, evil workers, the concision] - in the spirit, rejoice

**3:4-8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss [1Cor.3:15] of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win 2771, [2770 gain in 1:21] Christ,

**3:9-11** Found/know him

1. [a] righteousness by faithfulness	[works?]
2. power of resurrection	[works]
3. fellowship of sufferings	[works]
4. conformable [like him] in his death	[works]
5. a resurrection out of the dead LITV	[works]

if somehow attain

**3:12-14** not attained, perfect, apprehended [suffering?]  
I press..after a mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus LITV

**3:18-19** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are the enemies* of the cross of Christ: Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) Cp.2Tim.4:1-4.

**3:20-21** Future

1. citizenship in heaven	[all body members?]
2. from where we look	[out-resurrected members?]
3. [then] body changed	[out-resurrected members?]
4. subdue all things	[out-resurrected members?]

**4:1** joy & crown – stand fast - in the Lord

## Paul, the mind of Christ & the out-resurrection - Phils.2, 3

### Christ's out-resurrection

2:6-11 form, equal with God  
abasement  
form of servant  
Likeness of men  
Fashion as man  
Humbled himself

[out res'n] Highly exalted

future honor, knees [appearing]

before the appearing  
raised before others  
to earth before heaven  
food, recognizable  
taught/met with friends  
hid in God until appearing

### Paul & out-resurrection

3:4-21 Israel, Hebrew, Pharisee,  
blameless, zeal,  
gain to loss, dung, win Christ  
righteousness on faithfulness  
to know his resurrection,  
sufferings, death

desire, [out res'n] exaltation, prize

future honor, crown [appearing, 2Tim.4]

before the appearing  
our conversation in heaven;  
from whence we look  
change vile body to like his  
subdue all things unto himself

[we are subjected in new bodies or the crowned help subject others?]  
hidden dispensation ends at appearing?

does this  
explain this?