

Article of the Month  
April, 2016

**Paul's "Made-up" Word — Philippians 3:10,11**

Two of this year's articles have dealt with resurrection. April's will do likewise — but with an emphasis on only a two-verse passage.

In Philippians 3:10, 11, the Apostle Paul wants to teach the saints a rather specific lesson about their own resurrection. Resurrection (except in the case of Jesus) is always a *process*. As such, there is a *period* of being resurrected which results in a *completion* of the process. The world of mankind in general will go through this *process* of being resurrected during the period when Christ mediates the New Covenant during the Millennial Age. The *completion* of the world's resurrection *process* will be when Christ turns mankind over to his Father once the process is complete. We learn of this in the passage of I Corinthians 15:21-26.

However, the resurrection of the Church, the "body of Christ," takes place in the Gospel Age and will be totally completed by the time the New Covenant begins to be mediated. It is this "first resurrection" (Revelation 20:6) which Paul is treating in the Philippians text. It reads as follows (NASB):

- (10) ... "that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death;
- (11) in order that I may attain to THE resurrection from the dead."

The Greek word for "resurrection" in verse 10 is not the same Greek word for "resurrection" in verse 11. Verse 10 uses "*anastasis*" — the Greek word we have come to realize is the only correct word for "resurrection" in the entire New Testament. But verse 12 uses the Greek word "*exanastasis*." Paul seems to have made up this word. This is the only use of it in the New Testament. We will shortly see why he felt the need to invent a special term.

Paul wanted to differentiate the process of the "first resurrection" from the actual attainment of the *completed* process. So he invented "*exanastasis*" which literally means "out of the resurrection" process. Thus we have verse 10 telling us how the *process* is accomplished by feeling (or knowing) the "power" of Jesus working in us to accomplish our resurrecting. It is also accomplished by our having the "fellowship" or similar experiences of suffering for righteousness. It is also accomplished by our years of devoting ourselves to "conform" ourselves to the purpose and reason for his death. In other words, we sacrifice our earthly lives in order to die for the same purpose he died. This is the doctrine of the "sin offering." Jesus AND we die in order to eventually be

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honored in doing away with the sin that plagues this poor world. Paul had made this point in Romans 6:6 which, when translated correctly, says, "...our old man was crucified with him that the body of sin (the whole totality of sin under which the world suffers) might be done away with."

Once Paul had explained the process or our resurrection, he wanted to state its result. So, in verse 11, he describes the result of the process as *what comes out of the process*: the "ex-anastasis" or coming out of resurrection processes into life in its highest form — BEING resurrectED. Or as Paul words it: "ATTAIN to the exanastasis" — or REACH the desired completion.

We could paraphrase Paul's ideas from verses 9-11 something like this:

- (9) My faith in Christ comes from God and is counted to me as being righteous,
- (10) which righteousness is granted to me so that I can know Jesus, so that I can feel his power working in me in a resurrection process ahead of the world, so that I can be reckoned as sharing in his sufferings which will complete the offering for sin and guarantee a New Covenant. It is all so that my own death will conform to the death of Jesus in purpose and intent.
- (11) And all of this process is so that I reach the the "finish line" — the end of the resurrection process — and come out of that resurrection process into life in its fullest sense — the attainment of THE resurrection in full.

The meaning of many Biblical passages often rests on our noticing the smallest of details. The Bible is "God-breathed" — inspired. Its many nuances are there for our growth in spiritual things. Thus we see that "resurrection" in its basic form is a rather simple doctrine. But within this simple doctrine are worlds of detail which help our understanding and our eventual spiritual maturity.

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