

## POWER FROM THE TOMB

**TEXT:** 2 Corinthians 13:4

**INTRO.:** A. If there is a crucifix and not an empty cross, we are yet in our sins. If Christ is not risen, Christianity is a cruel hoax. If our Savior is dead our preaching is vain and your faith is vain. If there is no empty tomb, there is no hope beyond the grave. If there is no "good news" of the resurrection, then there is only the "bad news" of Jesus' death. **If Christ is not risen**, the Bible is not God's Word...Christ cannot save... He was a liar & an imposter...the O.T. prophecies are untrue...the 40+ references to His resurrection in the N.T. are deceptions...the Apostles and millions of others laid down their lives for a non-existent cause...churches are rip-offs...missionaries leave homes, families, etc. foolishly...millions of dollars are thrown away in a senseless attempt to convert others...people are "harassed" by believers for nothing...the heathen should be left alone...and Christians who gather in His name for worship, praise & power engage in a charade!

B. Five times before His death Jesus said ***"Destroy this temple in 3 days and I will raise it up."*** (Jn.2:19) ***He declared: "I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down & I have power to take it again.:"*** (Jn.10:17,18). Yet our text speaks of Him being crucified in weakness...

### I. CRUCIFIED IN HUMAN WEAKNESS:

## A. He Entered the World as a Man:

**ILLUS.:** The context of this verse is Paul the Apostle arguing for his own Apostolic authority among the Corinthian believers who were doubting him. V.3 Then he compares his weakness in the flesh to that of our Savior. Like the Savior, he did not choose to exert his power. He too appeared to his enemies to be weak and feeble. As Paul had not chosen to exert his own miraculous powers in the disciplinary matter in the Corinthian church, so too our Savior choose not to always exert His miraculous, supernatural powers.

**Philippians 2:7-8** *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

**Hebrews 2:9** *9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

1. Everything you and I are, Jesus was – sin apart.
2. Every weakness you and I have, Jesus had – except the capacity to respond to sin. (He was hungry, thirsty, tired, etc.)

**ILLUS.:** But because He was not born with a sin nature, He could not respond to sin! It is "**Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever.**" If He ever could sin, He still can sin & our salvation is in jeopardy! God forbid! It is not just that He did not sin, but that He could not sin. Otherwise He could never die for sinners!

## B. He Entered the World as a Lamb:

1. He was born, like so many lambs before Him, foreordained to be offered as an innocent substitutionary sacrifice for others sins; thus John the Baptist testified: ***"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."***
2. Like every lamb before Him, He died in His weakness – the weakness of powerless flesh – a Savior Who could bleed!
3. That is why He is referred to as "Christ our Passover..." – He is the Passover lamb.
  - a. As with every Passover lamb He had to be carefully scrutinized for spots, blemishes or any imperfection.
  - b. For 3 ½ years He was examined carefully by friends and enemies and the verdict of all was: ***"I find no sin in Him."***

**ILLUS.:** On Wednesday our Jewish neighbors celebrated their Passover. What they refuse to acknowledge or fail to realize is that the Passover Lamb they have been looking for has already been sacrificed. They do not understand the reason their sacrificial system, priesthood, altar & atonement has already been personified in their Yeshua Meshiach (Messiah), the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **II. ALIVE BY GOD'S POWER:**

### A. He is the Mighty God:

1. His promise that He could take up His life again, demonstrates that He is God.
2. Surely the Father and the Spirit can likewise take credit for Christ's resur-

rection, but since He is equally God, He walked out of the tomb by His own power.

**ILLUS.:** Now that's power! It is one of the many things which makes Christ's resurrection different from all others. When others were raised, they had nothing to do with it. When Christ was raised it was His own power that accomplished it. Think of it. That *dead, lifeless body* in the tomb DECIDED to walk out!!! And He did!!!!

What a contrast between Good Friday & Easter Sunday. Christ seemed so weak on G.F. and the soldiers, religious leaders and politicians seemed so powerful. How impotent Christ seemed on G.F. and his enemies omnipotent! But just 3 days and 3 nights later, on Easter Sunday when He walked out of the tomb, How powerful Christ was over the tomb, the seal, the stone and death itself; while His enemies were totally powerless to prevent what He did. On Easter it was Christ displaying His omnipotence and his enemy's impotence! Including our "last enemy" – death itself!

## B. He is the Coming Lion:

1. The Living Lamb of God is also the Mighty Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
2. No longer is He "lowly Jesus meek and mild" – when He next appears He will be roaring, not whispering.
3. Christ's resurrection is all about power – the power of God unleashed to resurrect the dead, to enthrone Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
4. The Lion will reign in all the glorious power He has had with the Father throughout eternity, except for a brief period on earth when He imposed the weakness of fleshly limitations on Himself.

**CONCL.:** Through the weakness of the flesh He died – through the power of God He rose from the dead and liveth forevermore! All the other tombs of humanity in history are powerless. But there was power buried in that one tomb of our Savior – and He continues to live today through that power.