

ones. In Colossians 1:18 Paul speaks of Christ as "the firstborn from the dead" by virtue of His resurrection. Further on in the same epistle he writes, "If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1) Paul in writing to the Ephesians stresses the thought of God's power which was shown in the resurrection of Christ. "And what the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to that working of the strength of His might which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and made Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 1:19,20) Such great power as the resurrection of Christ revealed, Paul desired to know in a very special way. This fervent desire is expressed in the words of Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming conformed unto His death." In Paul's last letter, that to young Timothy, he says, "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David, according to my gospel." (II Timothy 2:8) Since Paul's own conversion to the Christian life was inseparable from the fact that he had seen the risen Christ, the message of the resurrection was paramount in his epistles. To Paul the central fact of his Christian faith and experience was the glorious truth of the resurrection of Christ.

In the epistle to the Hebrews we have the presentation of Christ in His state of exaltation. Therefore, the writer has quietly assumed his own faith in the resurrection of Jesus and its essential meaning. In the wonderful benediction at the close of this epistle, he speaks of "the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus." (Hebrews 13:20) How significant is the emphasis on the truth here as in the Pauline epistles that God raised