

So all of our work here in the seminary can be important in advancing this objective--to learn to know Him.

The verse goes on": to know him and the power of his resurrection. If you are truly to know him you must know something of his power but Oh how easy it is for us to forget it. "The power of his resurrection." The power that God showed when he raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He raised him up to his right hand in glory. We need that power. We may try and try to serve the Lord in our own strength--if we do that we'll fail. We're like Peter walking on the water and sinking when he took his eyes off Christ. We need the power of His resurrection.

As we go on in seminary and as we go on in your service of life, time and time again we need the power of His resurrection. That power God displayed in raising Jesus Christ from the dead that is a power that can solve every one of your problems. That is a power that can enable you to push forward and enable you to accomplish the things God wants you to accomplish. Without that power you can accomplish nothing.

So if you will learn to know the power of His resurrection and to make that such a real thing in your life, that every step when you meet an obstacle, when you meet a difficulty, when you meet a problem, you turn to Christ and look for the power of His resurrection, and see that power surging thru you and see that power controlling you in all the affairs of life. You have there something that is absolutely fundamental for Christian life and Christian service. The power of His resurrection.

I believe that most people, certainly without a Christian background, would be shocked at what Paul says next. See how it seems to go up to a high platform --to know Him and the power of His resurrection. Then it says next "and the fellowship of His suffering." We all want to know the power of His resurrection, but how many want to know the fellowship of His suffering? How quick we are to say when something goes wrong, Has God forgotten me? Is God not interested in me? I thought I was following the Lord. I thought I was doing what He wanted me to do, and he would give me success.

Here I meet this problem. Here I meet this difficulty. Here things are going wrong. Here is this thing I trusted in and it has failed me. Maybe it failed you because you were not doing what you should. Maybe you weren't taking advantage of the power of His resurrection as you should. Maybe you were not putting first things first. But maybe you were and still you had the failure. Why is it? Because He wants you to learn the fellowship of His suffering.

We are in this world to make Christ known. We are here to spread the knowledge of the Gospel. He has work for each of us to do. But more interested even in the work you are to do for him he is interested in our development. We are to have everlasting life to live eternally with Jesus Christ, and how can we in our present frail, unsatisfactory situation? So prone to fall into sin. So prone to put our own personal desires first.