

**Resurrection Unto Life:
The Aim Of Being Preserved In Jesus Christ**

I would like for us to meditate a little on what Jude refers to in his description of the saved. He refers to them as those “that are sanctified by God the Father -- and preserved in Jesus Christ”. We are obviously preserved by Christ from being lost in eternal condemnation -- this is true -- but we are also preserved (or, kept in protective custody) unto our eternal salvation -- or, until our ultimate deliverance from this world -- at the coming of Jesus Christ -- when the elect will be raised up by Christ!

Jesus said when He taught us from Jn.6:37-40: “All that the Father giveth me [This is all the elect from eternity -- unto eternal salvation] -- shall come to me! [1Tim.2:3-4> “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior -- (4) who will have all men to be saved -- and come unto the knowledge of the Truth.”] And, Jesus says, him that cometh to me -- I will in no wise cast out! [Or, him that cometh to me I will by no means be willing to give up, or to release from my protective custody!] (38) For I came down from heaven [Or, I came down from the holy habitation of all eternity] -- not to do mine own will [I.e. not to exercise, only, my own prerogative -- not to fulfill, only, mine own good pleasure...] -- but the will of Him that sent me. [I.e. to be like a faithful bond-slave to Him that sent me. Phil.2:7 says that Jesus: “...took upon Him the form of a (lit.) bond-slave”] (39) And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me [Here is identified the bond-slave’s Master -- it is even His own beloved Father]-- that of all which He hath given me [I.e. all the elect from eternity for eternal salvation which He has given me -- that through His person and work and preservation -- He says] -- I should lose nothing [I.e. that none of them -- should be lost -- but all will be kept in my protective custody and preserved. And then He says --] but should raise it up at the last day! [This is the goal -- the end -- the culmination point -- the desired aim of His eternal preservation -- their resurrection unto life!] (40) And, this is the will of Him that sent me -- that everyone which seeth the Son [This means -- that everyone that comes to behold as a spectator the person and work of Jesus -- and to acknowledge that He is the eternal Son of God] -- and believeth (lit.) into Him [I.e. to experientially enter into Him by the gracious work of God (Jn.6:29> “This is the work of God -- that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent”)]. To come by the grace of faith -- to see and discern that He

truly is -- in His person and work as the Redeemer -- your eternal Surety and Savior] -- may have everlasting life [Everyone -- of every nationality -- of every generation -- throughout the history of fallen humanity -- that comes to experientially see and discern Jesus Christ as being their Substitute -- may have everlasting life! And to these persons He individually and personally says...] -- and I will raise him up at the last day.” [Once again, this is the grand goal and desire of all those who are being preserved in Christ!]

Jesus makes it clear that it is all God’s doing that these grand things are realized when He goes a little further on and says from Jn.6:44-45> “No man can come unto me [I.e. no fallen man can truly, experientially come unto me -- can see with discernment that I am the Son of God sent from heaven to the their Savior] -- except the Father which hath sent me draw him [I.e. except they be caught in the net of the pure presentation of the gospel of the glory of Christ -- and are drawn to Him. Later on in vs.65 He clarifies: “no man can come to me -- except it were given unto him of my Father”] -- and I will raise him up at the last day!”

But, what exactly is it to be drawn to Christ? We who see our desperate need for Him -- if we cannot come any other way -- how might we know we drawn by the Father?

Jn.6:45 tells us: “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall be all taught of God.’ [In Is.54:13 it is written: “And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord -- and great shall be the peace of thy children.” Hence, Jesus says...] Every man, therefore, that hath heard -- and hath learned -- (lit.) from the Father -- cometh unto me.” [First of all -- from vs.44 Jesus says, “no man...” and then from vs.45 He says, “every man...” -- and the difference between the two is the teaching and learning that “every man” who truly comes to Christ experiences from the Father. The point being plainly made that no man has the capability to come to Jesus Christ on his own -- apart from the Father’s granting the capability.

The apostle Paul is inspired to teach on these same things -- in the epistle of Philippians. Where this great end -- this great goal -- of being given to the eternal Savior -- of being eternally preserved and placed in Jesus Christ -- and ultimately being resurrected unto eternal glory -- is also expressed as becoming the great desire of the true believer.

From Phil.3:3-11 we read:

“For we are the circumcision -- which worship God in the Spirit -- and rejoice in Christ Jesus -- and have no confidence in the flesh. (4) Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh -- I more! (5) Circumcised the 8th day -- of the stock of Israel -- of the tribe of Benjamin -- an Hebrew of the Hebrews -- as touching the law, a Pharisee! (6) Concerning zeal -- persecuting the Church -- touching the righteousness which is in the law -- (lit.) having been blameless! [This is defining the very pinnacle of fallen unregenerate yet religious human achievement -- and points out all that in this context -- touches those same equivalent things that are -- or, at least -- that have been -- in all of us] (7) But what things were gain to me [Or, what things that I counted as being gain -- as being of value to me -- as far as earning favor with God and going to heaven in the end is concerned] those I counted loss for Christ. [Who is to be so much more admired and adored -- than me! Who is to be worshipped in Spirit -- and rejoiced in -- in Truth]

(8) Yea -- doubtless -- and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord! [Nothing else matters -- but the excellence of His person and work -- once one comes to truly know Christ Jesus as the Lord of their life] For whom I have suffered the loss of all things [When Christ comes in -- everything else has got to go! This is the suffering of the total humiliation of seeing everything in this life that one has accomplished -- in accordance with whatever it is -- that individually feeds their pride -- come to be worth nothing. This is the loss of all the things about an individual that bolsters their arrogance and causes them to boast -- to themselves -- about themselves. When Christ comes into view -- by a genuine work of grace -- they are then emptied of these things!] -- and do count them (lit.) to be but dung [All the things of the world and the flesh come to be regarded as nothing but excremental waste] -- that I may win Christ! [Or, that I may gain by grace an interest in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ!] (9) And, be found in Him [Or, be found as having been eternally chosen and positioned in Him] -- not having mine own righteousness which is of the law -- but that which is through the faith of Christ -- the righteousness which is of God by faith!

(10) That I may know Him -- and the power of His resurrection [Here it is

expressed -- the burning desire and aspiration of every true believer! The living hope of all the elect of God -- along with what all that this motivation truly means!] and the fellowship of His sufferings -- being made conformable unto death -- (11) if by any means I might attain... [Which statement is not to be understood as if he doubted his ultimate attainment -- or his arrival at his desired end -- or his being brought to what we have before observed that Christ will do in His raising us up at the last day -- but rather this denotes the difficulties that we must go through in attaining it. Acts 14:22 plainly says: “Through much tribulation we must enter the Kingdom of God”. As if to say: If by whatever is personally meant to be -- by the trials of this life -- that I personally must go through -- whatever the *“fellowship of His sufferings”* and the *“being made conformable to His death”* literally means for me so that...] -- I might attain [Which lit. means: I might arrive at; I might come to be united with in my Surety and my Substitute in it] -- unto the resurrection of the dead. [I.e. unto the last day -- wherein I will realize what my Savior promises to me when He will raise me up -- unto the free and total deliverance of the eternal weight of glory -- that is not even worthy to be compared with the afflictions of this life]

“That I may know Him”! This is a connotation of the grace given appetite of the true believer’s faith! *“That I may know Him”!* This is the hunger -- that all we who are in Christ Jesus have -- for the bread of life! *“That I may know Him”!* This is what all who are in Christ Jesus -- longingly anticipate. There is no exception of this among the masses of God’s elect!

This is what becomes a part of what it means in Eph.4:13 when it says: “till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge [I.e. the full knowledge and discernment] of the Son of God”. This description begins a lengthy exhortation that extends on down to Eph.5:11. Which includes touching on the personal growth and development in one’s walk in this world -- and their living among fellow believers -- and which introduces us to what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit -- and what it looks like to be a regenerate believer -- and at the same time be -- a spouse -- a child -- a parent -- a servant -- and a master!

And, in the midst of it all -- is Eph.5:14 which says: “Awake thou that sleepest! And arise from the dead -- and Christ shall give thee light!”

This is no doubt a reference to Is.60:1-2 which says: “Arise! Shine! For thy light is come -- and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!” (2) For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth -- and gross darkness the people but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee!”

The power of His resurrection is the power to leave self -- selfish aims and goals and aspirations -- and to live all out for the Lord Jesus Christ! It is the power to “put off concerning the former conversation -- the old man -- which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” and, “be renewed in the spirit of your mind” and “put on the new man -- which after God -- is created in righteousness and true holiness”. -- Eph.4:22-24

Ro.6:4-5 dogmatically declares the description of true believers when it says: “like as Christ was raised up from the dead -- by the glory of the Father -- even so we also should walk in newness of life. [Even because the power of Christ’s resurrection has been revealed to have happened for us -- the knowledge of this gospel truth takes control of us -- and makes us to love Him where this sinful world despises Him -- and makes us want to obey Him in our walk through this sinful world -- and makes us, out of love, want to be like Him in spite of this world] (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death [I.e. if we have realized by the Holy Spirit our identification with Him -- as being our Substitute in the likeness of His death -- and, we most certainly do if it is true that we are not mere professors of Christ, but genuine confessors of Christ (“that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus -- and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead -- thou shalt be saved”) -- then we do have a genuine representative share with Him in His death...and then it says] -- we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.” [As true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ -- you can’t have one without the other -- Praise God! To realize Him in His death -- is to also know Him in His resurrection to life -- His eternal life!]

In fact, this is where the truth comes home to our awareness of the truly incredible reality of Eph.2:4-7 that “God, who is rich in mercy -- for His great love wherewith He loved us (5) even when we were dead in sins -- hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved) -- (6) and hath raised us up together -- and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus -- (7) that in the ages to come -- He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

The apostle can only announce -- and not explain -- that which he was allowed to realize by the revelation of Jesus Christ to his heart -- that we who are among the chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world -- though we are yet suffering the slings and arrows of going through this world -- and though we were dead in our sins -- yet God in His mercy -- and His great love wherewith He hath eternally loved us -- hath quickened us together with Christ -- hath raised us up together with Christ -- hath made us sit together with Christ -- having for a goal His intention to show forth the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us -- His saved ones. Praise His Wonderful Name! Oh, how so very obvious and true it is that -- by grace we have been saved!]

And, then Ro.6:6-7 goes on to descriptively declare: (6) “Knowing this, [That is, lit. experientially knowing -- this already stated truth of the gospel, viz...] that our old man is crucified with Him -- that the body of sin might be destroyed -- that henceforth we should not serve [as bond-slaves] sin. (7) For he that is dead -- is freed from sin!” [Or, lit., “he that is dead -- has been justified!” Or, to put it another way, has been resurrected with Him. Ro.4:25 very plainly says of the Lord Jesus “Who was delivered for our offences -- and was raised again -- for our justification!” Realizing our representation before God in Christ -- reveals that there has taken place a dramatic change in our eternal standing before God. And, its all because -- of His resurrection!]

Ro.6:9-11 goes on to say: “Knowing [This time -- dogmatically knowing without a doubt] that Christ being raised from the dead [The resurrection of Jesus holds a definite place in the history of fallen humanity -- and because of that -- He...] -- dieth no more -- [And, therefore...] death hath no more dominion over Him! (10) For in that He died -- He died unto sin once [I.e. lit. “once for all”] -- but in that He liveth -- He liveth unto God. [And, He is our Substitute representative unto God -- in that He died -- and in that He lives! And, He keeps us eternally secure in His protective custody -- preserved -- in this position forever. Therefore can we...] (11) Likewise reckon [I.e. Likewise take an inventory of all that is ours by the representation of Christ -- and as a result -- account Him as being our Substitute...and therefore consider the fact that...] ye also yourselves to be dead, indeed, unto sin -- but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Through the divine and eternal Son of God -- having come into this

world in the likeness of sinful flesh -- in the person of the Lord Jesus -- and who for sin -- condemned sin in the flesh. We hear of this feat -- we come to realize through revelation by the Holy Spirit -- that all this was done so that we might be saved. And, by the blessing of that news -- we are clearly and completely converted -- quickened by the Holy Spirit -- and the joy of the Lord leads us through this world -- the remaining days we have left!

This is then -- in our own small way -- equivalent to -- “Jesus -- the author and finisher of our faith -- who for the joy that was before Him -- endured the cross -- despising the shame -- and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God!” -- He.12:2.

For the great passion of Christ is not to be focused on all the blood and the gore that the event of the crucifixion entails -- no -- that’s only the temporary aspect of it! He was on the cross for one day! He was only in the tomb for three days and three nights! But, He has been -- by the glory of eternal God the Father -- raised up and exalted to an eternal plateau of glory -- that is truly the glory of the Highest! He knew -- all through this world of opposition and contradiction and trouble and woe -- of the great glory and delight and joy of victory that He would realize by virtue of His faithful obedience to what His Father commanded Him to do -- and the cup of wrath that His Father commanded Him to drink. He saw through the foggy mists of the temporary darkness of seeming defeat -- to the eternal joys of unfading glory in His being raised again for the justification of all His elect seed!

That we, too -- by the grace of the faith of Jesus Christ -- may also get a glimpse of the glory that is predestined for us to realize. In the end of all this life of temporary evils and miseries -- we as His elect will come forth from the fiery furnace of this world unto the glorious victory of Christ our Lord! 1Co.6:14 declares: “And God hath both raised up the Lord -- and will raise up us by His own power!” [What Paul says in Eph.2:6 that God has already done -- He says here in 1Co.6:14 that He will yet do in our future. Surely this indicates the certainty of time’s reflection of eternal realities. Showing that everything that Christ is declared to be on our behalf is eternally done for us -- making our experience to be the demonstration -- of the fixed purpose of God. Time is, therefore, the arena upon which God’s sure and certain -- purpose and plan -- will unfold in the exposing of the eternal glory of the Lord Jesus Christ!

2Co.4:14 also tells us: “**Knowing** [I.e. knowing without a doubt] **that He which raised up the Lord Jesus -- shall raise up us also by Jesus -- and shall present us with you!**” Here again, that which has been done with Christ -- makes eternally certain that which will be done with us -- in order to exhibit the eternal glory of the Lord! As it has been declared in the word of God concerning the Savior -- so has it been declared to be true with His saved ones.

Eph.1:19-20 makes this explicitly clear when it declares that which the Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation makes manifest to the saints is “**...the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe --** [The particular ones who are predestined to be true believers...] **according to the working of His mighty power** [I.e. who, in turn, believe according to the power of the sovereign grace of God!] -- (20) **which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** [The very power of grace that God worked out completely in Christ when He -- in glory -- raised Him from the dead]-- **and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places!** [He raised Him up into the timeless territory of eternity -- making the event of Christ’s resurrection -- a victory that is as unchangeable as He is!] (22) **Far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named -- not only in this world** [Or, lit., “not only in this age”] -- **but also in that which is to come!** [This statement declares the unsurpassable magnitude of Christ’s exaltation! Nothing can touch or taint His eternal holy glory -- not now -- not ever!] (22) **And hath put all things under His feet -- and gave Him to be the Head of over all things to the Church -- (23) which is His Body -- the fullness of Him that filleth all in all!** [This statement declares the exaltation of His elect -- His Church -- His Body -- and His Bride -- all which are terms of the same thing. What’s under His feet -- is ultimately under theirs also -- because of His fullness they too are filled -- Praise His Name!]

Finally, we can see that the ultimate goal of the preservation of the saved ones is unto the resurrection of life from **Jn.5:28-29** -- where the Lord takes us right to last day and hour when He declares: “**Marvel not at this -- for the hour is coming** [It is sure and certain! We are ever hastening toward this final hour-- by God’s decree] -- **in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice (29) and shall come forth** [All secrets will be exposed -- nothing will remain hidden from the eyes of

Him to whom we must give account] -- they that have done good -- to the resurrection of life...” [Jesus declares it as already done -- making what is happening in our life right now -- to be a predestined reality that is unfolding before us as we live it! The saved ones all come from being among the company and congregation of the lost -- but the fact that they are saved ones -- makes it inevitable that Christ Jesus will seek them out -- and enter into the equation of their lives of sin and rebellion and living according to their wanton ways -- and will reveal to them the desperation that they are in -- as being the sinners that they are -- and that they need a Savior such as He alone can be for them -- having bourn all their trespasses and guilt and iniquities -- and having redeemed them from all their fallen unrighteousnesses. And, He closes on their hearts -- and He changes their lives -- and they become on the last day those that have “*done good*” -- and He raises them up unto the goal and aim that their lives ultimately long for -- “the resurrection of life”! All praise and glory to God!

And the one striving, driving desire of their lives -- the one craving hunger of their hearts -- that unites us all together -- is where it says: “That I may know Him -- and the power of His resurrection -- and the fellowship His sufferings -- being made conformable unto His death -- (11) if by any means I might attain -- unto the resurrection of the dead. [All the while remembering, beloved, the reality of what Paul also admits as being true] (12) Not as though I had already attained -- either were already perfect -- but I follow after [Or, lit. “*but I press on*”] -- if that I may apprehend [Or, lit., “*if that I may lay hold of*”] that for which also -- I am apprehended [Or again, lit., “*that for which also -- I am laid hold of*”] -- (lit.) by Christ Jesus.”

Oh Lord -- make this to be the crowning desire of our lives -- Amen.