**The Power of the Resurrection**

Two years ago… Evidence for the resurrection

Last year prefigures and foreshadows of the resurrection

Today: The power of the resurrection

Illustration: The Show Revolution. When the power goes out.

One thing for sure, we need power. We notice it principally when we lack it.

This past summer in Conakry, Guinea

Jesus looked at the people—they were like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36-38 The world is without power. They are helpless. They have no answers to the questions people really care about.

Nice houses, look good on outside, smiles

Illustration of the doctor I lived with. Silent desperation.

I have an announcement for you. The power is back on. We’re not talking 120 V AC. We’re talking resurrection power. That is the Easter message.

Q: How much power would it take to raise Jesus from the dead? (Romans 1:4)

Is there a better, a more encouraging message than the resurrection of Jesus?

1. Power over sin. Romans 6:3-10 We were buried with him. Ohhhh…. Bummer…[aside…1 Cor 15:14-19 but Christ has been raised. There is the empty tomb and the 500 eye witnesses, and the witness of historians]. But we were also raised with him!

v. 6 body of sin rendered powerless.

Also Romans 8:6-11 Notice v. 11 The power that raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.

v. 7 anyone who has died [with Christ] has been freed from sin Everyone dies twice!!!

Physical death, and either death with Christ or the second death. Your choice.

Me share personally. Teen and college totally worldly. Tried to become spiritual. I could not overcome lust, selfishness, pride. I was powerless to change those things. But God made me alive with Christ!!! Death now longer has power over me. Romans 7:14-25 That was me!!!

The world has lots to offer. Education—power to get a job, job—power to earn money, pleasure—power to please the senses, nice vacations—power to relax and enjoy, but it has nothing to offer to deal with the problem of sin.

Do you have the power to overcome sin in your life? Do you have the power to forgive yourself of sin?

How do you feel about the message of the resurrection. You have power over sin’s control in your life.

2. Power to change your life. Phil 3:7-10

We’re no longer like sheep without a shepherd.

Paul had a purpose and meaning in his life. The things which controlled him no longer controlled him.

Why? 1 Pet 1:3 hope.

Look at what happened to Peter because of the resurrection. He went from fearful to faithful. Like I said last year, Jesus is the first fruit from the dead. His resurrection is a promise of our future resurrection.

That was one characteristic of the early church. The Jews and the Romans could not intimidate them. You threaten to arrest them or to kill them and the Christians would flock to that city. Why? They had hope.

This is the message of the resurrection: You have hope.

3. Power over death.

Daniel 12:2-4

If you are wise, you will rise to everlasting life. How? Through the resurrection of Jesus.

Well, how does that work? Let’s see.

1 Cor 15:20-26

Christ destroys our last enemy…. Death has no power over us

I feel a song coming…. Daniel are we doing the song power?

John 11:17-27

He who believes in me will live, even though he dies….

Do you believe this?

Then you have power in your life.

Let us celebrate today resurrection power.