

Eleutheros Newsletter

June 2022

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

Is there anything more important to you than your eternal salvation?

Here is your invitation to understand salvation.

You Can Learn at Your Own Pace and Choose the Course of Study

(CURRENTLY OFFERING)

[**The Ramifications of Our Salvation 101**](#)

[**The Ramifications of Our Salvation 102**](#)

Available now: an online course on I Corinthians! eleutheros-seminars.thinkific.com

Thoughts on Romans

1:4 *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

The word “declared” is used to describe an important point made in verse 3 about *His Son Jesus Christ our Lord*. The description is from **ὀρίζω** in the Greek. It is interesting that Paul was “separated unto the Gospel of God” in verse 1; the verb there is related to the one here (**ἀφορίζω**). Thus, God’s sovereignty is evident in two cases in this passage: Paul’s apostleship and Gospel ministry and Jesus’ entire life and ministry were according to God’s will. For more on the verb **ὀρίζω**, see [Luke 22:22](#); [Acts 2:23](#).

Our Lord was the eternal Son of God in His preincarnate state ([II Corinthians 8:9](#); [Philippians 2:6](#)) and still so after His incarnation (verse 3, “of the seed of David”), but it was His resurrection from the dead that definitely *marked Jesus off* (the idea of the verb **ὀρίζω**) as God’s Son.

Jesus had been declared to be God’s Son at His baptism ([Matthew 3:17](#); [Mark 1:11](#)). Further, He had made claims about Himself that He is God (consider all the *I AM* declarations in the Gospels). Finally, He prophesied His resurrection many times!

This event, the resurrection, gave God’s seal “with power”, “in power”, and was declared so in power” ([II Corinthians 13:4](#)). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the miracle of miracles and was a point made in every sermon in the books of Acts!

To put it another way, His resurrection declared Jesus to be Who He truly is!

The phrase “according to the spirit of holiness” does not refer to the Holy Spirit, but rather to Jesus’ personal holiness. Jesus was *in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin* ([Hebrews 4:15](#)). The noun “holiness” here is **ἀγλωσύνη** and is rare in Scripture (here; [I Thessalonians 3:13](#); [II Corinthians 7:1](#); and 3 times in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament). Each time it describes the attribute of God.

The phrase “Jesus Christ our Lord” sums up the total personality of our Savior—His deity and His humanity.

1:5 *By Whom we received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name.*

Paul surely recognized that His salvation was a miracle of God that was accomplished “by grace through faith” ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)), and his apostleship was according to a calling from God (1:1). He would not accept any personal glory!

The word “for” is actually a preposition (**εἰς**) in the Greek, which here indicates the marvelous result of God’s working in Paul’s life. The man who had formerly arrested, harassed, and killed Christians became obedient to God because of the faith given to him by grace.

The phrase “obedience to the faith” is an obedience that was produced by Paul’s faith. It began immediately after his miraculous conversion (see [Acts 9:6](#)) and continued throughout the remainder of his life on this earth.

It was the combination of Paul’s realization of the resurrection and God’s grace that caused him to be faithful to his Lord (see [II Timothy 4:6-8](#))!

May we, realizing how good God has been to us, follow the example of the Apostle, serving our Lord in resurrection power!

*Our blessed Lord was slain,
The Christ Who came to reign,
And in the grave He lay,
To wait the coming day.*

*They sorrowed when He died,
Nor sought their tears to hide,
But soon their bitter pain
Was turned to joy again!*

*The stone was rolled away,
For Christ was raised that day;
And now He lives above
To manifest His love!*

*He rose triumphantly
In power and majesty!
The Savior rose no more to die;
O let us now proclaim
The glory of His name,
And tell to all He lives today!*

He Rose Triumphantly

Oswald J. Smith

We will continue these thoughts from Romans in next month’s newsletter.