

# Easter 2020

## *Our living hope*

1 Peter 1:3

(John 16:22) **Now will be a time of great sorrow for you, but you will see Me again, and when you do you will experience tremendous happiness and no one will be able to take away your joy.**

Can our belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ give us a joy that no one can take away?

Primary point: The resurrection has given us a living hope, so we can have an unstoppable joy.

My primary text is 1 Peter 1:3 **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead** (1 Peter 1:3 NIV)

In one word, my Easter message is about hope. But not the world's version of hope. *Webster's* Dictionary gives the common understanding of hope as "wishing for something to happen or be true." On the contrary, the Greek word used in the NT for hope means: "looking forward to something with reasons for confidence."

### **A) Without the resurrection we have no hope** (1 Cor 15:3-8)

Can you be a Christian, but deny the resurrection? The Bible's clear answer is no, you cannot. (Rom 10:9).

If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then there is no such thing as Christianity, and therefore, no one can have any hope at all. (1 Cor 15:16-19; Job 8:12-15)

### **B) What is our hope in?**

An inheritance in Heaven (v. 4)

Don't forget about living in a world-wide Garden of Eden. Don't forget about that big party that Jesus promised with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and no doubt other biblical personalities present. Don't forget about your new, beautiful, powerful, and painless body. Don't forget that the biblical idea of an inheritance includes real land, a place of your own, that you will build and enjoy in the new world.

### **C) Because Christ rose from the dead, we have a living hope**

We have a living hope because it is real, and not a false hope which is offered by all other religions.

We have a living hope because it is presently proven by our new birth.

We have a living hope because our leader is alive. (John 14:1-3).

We have a living hope because it is a growing hope.

We have a living hope because we will never die. (John 11:25-26; 14:19).

We have a living hope because Jesus will probably return in our lifetime. (1 Pet 1:7; 1:13; 4:13).

### **Discussion ?'s**

- 1) Why does Christianity offer the only hope available for the next life? How did the resurrection prove this? Can you think of Scriptures that repeat this? (cf. John 14:6; Acts 4:12). What do these verses say about other religions?
- 2) What's the difference between how the world often views the idea of "hope" and how Christians view their hope?
- 3) Why do you think it is not sufficient to only believe in the death of Christ to be saved, but you must also believe in His resurrection?
- 4) Our ultimate hope is in our "inheritance in Heaven." What are you most looking forward to about your inheritance?
- 5) How has the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life given you proof that you have been born again?
- 6) How has your hope in Heaven grown stronger over the years? How has earthly disappointments influenced that?
- 7) Which one of the "living hopes" mentioned in the message was most meaningful to you? Why?