

The Hope of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday

1 Peter 1:3-5

April 17, 2022

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On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. (Luke 24:1-9)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also... (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead provides our sure hope of heaven and eternal life.

I. Many hope to enter heaven by their own righteousness.

...for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” (Luke 10:25-28)

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. (James 2:10)

All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;

we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. (Romans 3:21-22a)

“...if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” (Galatians 2:21)

II. Others hope to enter heaven by religion or ritual.

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:6)

And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. (Romans 4:11)

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. (Galatians 6:15)

Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” (Acts 19:4)

III. The resurrection of Jesus is our only hope.

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. (1 Corinthians 6:14)

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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3:3)

[The Jailer] asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. (Acts 16:31-32)

A. You must recognize your sin.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23a)

But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you... (Isaiah 59:2)

B. You must repent (be willing to turn from sin and self to God)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out... (Acts 3:19a)

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21)

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

C. You must receive the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. (Revelation 22:17)

D. You will then enter into a real relationship with your Creator and Savior.

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. (James 2:23)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends... (John 15:15)

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:15)

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." (Revelation 19:9)

God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." (Hebrews 4:7)