

## Jesus: Risen, Victorious, and Coming Again (1 Peter 1:3–25)

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### Introduction

1. We must not celebrate Resurrection Day simply to observe the day—a holiday.

Paul discourages NC believers from honoring days in Colossians 2:16 and Galatians 4:10.

We must celebrate the *fact* that Jesus is risen. He died and rose again. We celebrate every Lord's Day as Resurrection Day. Our salvation is based on that truth. If there is no resurrection—if Christ has not been raised from the dead—then we have no hope and we are still in our sins and liable for judgment (1 Corinthians 15:17).

2. This truth has a history of prophetic support.

The OT prophets carefully searched out and inquired into the coming of Christ and the subsequent glories—His resurrection, having accomplished salvation, His victorious Reign to conquer all His enemies, and His triumphant return to complete salvation's work (vv. 10–12). This is the gospel—the good news that we preach.

3. This gospel not only has future implications but must be presently evidenced in the believer's life of faith and obedience. The resurrection has *consequences*.

### I. Consequences

As great as the miracle of the resurrection of Christ is, we need to see it from the practical benefit intended by it. We answer three questions based on three great truths:

1. What is our *hope*? Jesus is coming again.
  - a. Peter opens his first letter by blessing God, who, in His mercy, has caused His people to be born again to a living hope through the *resurrection* of His Son, Jesus Christ (v. 3).
  - b. The living hope is an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading that is being preserved in heaven to be fully revealed at the end of time in the *second coming* of Jesus Christ (vv. 4, 5).
2. What is our *assurance*? Jesus is risen from the dead.
  - a. During this time of exile (v. 17), His people are faced with *various trials*, which test their faith's genuineness. The purpose of this testing is to show our faith worthy—that it “*may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (vv. 6, 7). This victorious overcoming of sin and evil through faith testifies to the present power of our reigning and victorious King of kings.
  - b. A genuine faith is demonstrated in the gospel's intended present progress in three areas:
    - 1) One's *love* for the *person* of this unseen Savior (as seen in faithful endurance; v. 8)
    - 2) One's *joy-filled trust* and hope in the glories of His saving *purpose* (v. 8b)
    - 3) One's life-changing *experience* of God's *present overcoming work* (v. 9)
3. What is our *expectation* in exile? Jesus is reigning now.
  - a. Our needed *prerequisite*, a prepared and serious mind (v. 13a).

The prophets' inquiry was to serve those who would benefit from Christ's gospel (vv. 10–12), making this matter an object of angelic curiosity. In light of this, Peter urges the reader to “*set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (v. 13b).

b. The gospel expectation is that of a *victorious life* over sin and self.

Jesus is now reigning and subduing His enemies, and that includes what is in believers (vv. 13–25). Our belief in the resurrection and reign of Christ, then, prompts *action*.

## II. Action

1. *Set your hope*—He is coming (vv. 13–17)

In light of His promised return, believers must focus on these questions:

a. What is your hope? It is a faith with full confidence in Christ's return (v. 13).

Our hope of completed salvation is based on God's grace in achieving practical holiness because of grace-enabled obedience. The true believer strives for progress in holiness as promised, one that is to be fully realized at the revelation (second coming) of Jesus Christ.

b. How is your hope evidenced in your present state of exile (v. 17)?

1) There is an assumption of a life of prayer (“*And if you call on him as Father*”).

2) There is an understanding of God's impartial judgment (“*who judges impartially according to each one's deeds*”).

3) There is an argument for holiness in present conduct (“*conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile*”).

2. *Understand your state*—He is living (vv. 18–21).

a. You were hopeless, chained to present futile ways inherited from faulty forefathers (v. 18a).

b. You were redeemed by Christ, the true Lamb of God, foreknown for you (vv. 19, 20).

c. You are presently believing through the grace of God, who raised Jesus from the dead as the firstfruits of the resurrection for all who believe and hope in Him (v. 21).

3. *Live out your faith*—He is Lord (vv. 22–25).

a. You *purify* your souls through obedience, not ritual (v. 22a).

b. You *love* your fellow believers from an earnest and pure (selfless) heart because Jesus orders it so (v. 22b, John 13:34, 35).

c. You *flourish* through regeneration (new birth) and the power of the Spirit through the living Word (vv. 23–25).