

How Jesus' Resurrection Gives Us Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5

Introduction

Today millions of people around the world are celebrating Jesus' resurrection, because His resurrection solves our biggest problem.

What is that problem? Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:3-5.

What problem do we face? (v.3)

The fact that God causes us to be born again to a living hope, shows that we do not have a living hope. The certainty of death destroys all our hopes.

This is tragic, because we all live by hope. What gives our lives meaning is the hopes we have for tomorrow.

The reason we have to die is because our sin against God deserves His judgment — and death is part of God's judgment.

So all we have is dead hope.

What does God do about our dead hope? (vv.3-5)

He does something in great mercy.

He causes us to be born again to a living hope — a hope that death cannot destroy.

He also calls this an inheritance which will last forever (vv.4-5)

This living hope, this inheritance, involves the grace that will be ours when we see Jesus (1:13).

If we face death and judgment, how can God give us living hope? (v.3)

It's through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

If we are going to have a living hope, our guilt needs to be paid for by another, and death's power needs to be broken.

In dying on the Cross, Jesus paid for all of our guilt — and in rising from the dead, He broke death's power.

How do we get in on this? (v.3)

By being born again. Sin had killed our faith in God and love for God.

But in great mercy God brings His power upon us and creates in us new hearts which trust, love, and worship God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

When that happens our sins are forgiven, we are assured of eternal life, and we have living hope.

How can I be born again to this living hope?

Turn to Jesus Christ just as you are

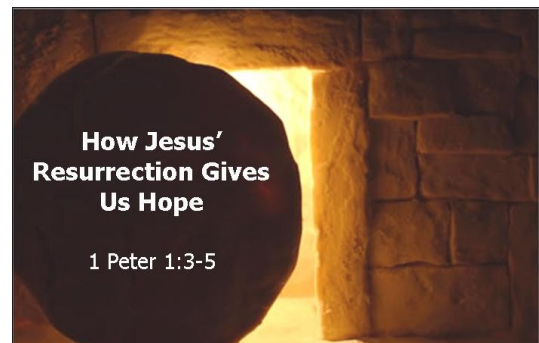
Admit that you have sinned and deserve God's judgment.

Thank Jesus for dying and rising from the dead

Tell Jesus you want to turn from sin and trust Him, love Him, worship Him

Ask Jesus to save you, strengthen your faith, forgive you.

Look to Him and trust Him, rely on Him, depend on Him.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What hopes give meaning to your life? How much do you hope in the grace you will experience when you see Jesus (1:13)?

What keeps people from experiencing more of this living hope? What keeps you from experiencing this more?

Does it make sense to you that Jesus' resurrection shows that His death paid for our sins and His resurrection broke sin's power? Why or why not?

Have you ever struggled to believe in the resurrection? What helped you with this?

How could someone tell if they had been born-again to this living hope? What should we do when we lack those evidences?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

