

## Resurrection – '17

Today, before we start, I want us to look back over the last few years and see what we have covered in regards to the resurrection. On Easter '16 We talked about how the resurrection is connected to Jesus and us. We also talked about what the resurrection gives us as well as what we need to know. On Easter '15 we talked through Matthew 28:1-8 and we showed some lessons for us through those passages. On Easter '14 we saw what the resurrection does for us and the connections through that.

Today, on Easter 2017, there is one thing that I wish to leave you with. It is that idea of the resurrection and how that is our hope. And I wish to start in **1 Peter 1:21** (What hope is this?)

- I. This is the hope that is of sure confidence
  - a. As we have seen in our verse, the idea is one of confidence in something or someone.
  - b. This is the whole crux of this verse!
    - i. It is through Jesus that anyone can believe and accept God.
    - ii. This is God who raised Jesus up and gave Him back the Glory that Jesus Himself took off
    - iii. It is because of this that our faith is founded (as will be seen) and our hope is in God Himself!
  - c. Our hope has to be in God and our future with God. If not, there is no reason for hope.
    - i. It is because of this hope that we change who we are – **1 John 3:1-3<sup>1</sup>**
      1. Knowing that our hope is sure and founded in the resurrection and knowing that we are going to see our Lord again...what do we do internally in ourselves?
      2. This verse tells us that we are to change...but change into what?
        - a. We need to change our minds, souls, hearts to be in tune with God
        - b. We need to change our habits, convictions, actions and our pleasures to match what God expects
        - c. This means that we die to ourselves and conform to the image of Christ.
    - ii. It is because of this hope that we are to be prepared to give answers to the seekers – **1 Peter 3:15**
      1. That means that we need to be in God's Word every chance we can
      2. We need to be with God's People every chance we get (This would include when there are studies going on at church)
      3. We need to be seeking answers
      4. We need to ask questions

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<sup>1</sup> **1 John 3:1-3** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

5. There are many times, where as I am reading a literary work or even doing study for something else that I ask questions.
  6. I want to know. I want to see. I want to understand. All believers should desire this.
  7. Do we have this desire? If not, how can we give an answer? How can we respond to critics? It is not enough to just say, "Well, I just believe and that is it..." We need, to the best that we can, be able to answer in a way that is intelligent.
- d. Lesson for us: In whom then do we have our confidence?
- i. In mankind?
    1. We have seen, and maybe even experienced that mankind can and will let us down!
    2. We may have people we can trust, but can we trust everyone all the time? The answer is no!
    3. If our hope is in mankind and in what mankind can do...we are going to be the most hopeless of all of God's creation
  - ii. In God?
    1. This is the place where our hope can lie safely
    2. Some may say, well how can you hope on someone whom you have not seen?
    3. My answer is **Romans 8:24**<sup>2</sup>!
    4. We don't have to see to have hope. We have hope because of faith **Romans 5:1-5**
    5. That faith is rewarded...notice what is said in **Hebrews 6:18**<sup>3</sup>
- II. This is the hope that is firm in our Salvation
- a. I can think of no better verse than **Hebrews 10:23**
  - b. The word faith is the same word as hope
  - c. It is in Christ that we have our profession. It is in that profession that we have the faithful promise of the great promises (We will see some of these promises in a minute)
  - d. The resurrection gives this to us. It allows us to look beyond the dim view of our existence on earth and look at the glorious existence in Heaven
  - e. Lesson for us: Does our hope do this?
    - i. Abraham looked at this hope and went forward just on God's promises – **Romans 4:18**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> **Romans 8:24** For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

<sup>3</sup> **Hebrews 6:18** that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

<sup>4</sup> **Romans 4:18** who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

- ii. When we say that we have hope for our salvation (not hoping that we are saved, but instead hoping for our deliverance - **1 Thessalonians 5:8**) does that give us the courage to realize we can go and do things that God has called us to do without fear?
    - iii. Are we limited on what we will do, because our hope is not fully realized because we do not fully realize the hope that is in the Resurrection?
- III. This is the hope that is firm in our Eternal Security – **Colossians 1:23**
  - a. Some may take this verse and say that this promotes the act of Arminism. After all, we have to stay in the faith (or continue) or we are going to be lost in salvation
  - b. I have a little thing I saved, hoping to pull it out in teaching one day, *"A young pastor was sitting in a restaurant eating lunch. He opened a letter from his mother he just got that morning. As he opened it a twenty dollar bill fell out. He thought: "Thanks, mom, I could use that right about now." As he finished his meal he noticed a beggar outside on the sidewalk leaning against the light post. He thought: "That fella could probably use the \$20 more than I." So he crossed out the names on the envelope and put the \$20 in the envelope and wrote across the top in large letters. "PERSEVERE!" So as not to make a scene, he put the envelope under his arm and dropped it as he walked past the man. The man picked it up and read the message and smiled. The next day, while the pastor was eating his lunch, the same man tapped him on the shoulder and handed him a big wad of bills. Surprised the young pastor asked him what that was for? The man replied, this is your half of the winnings. "PERSEVERE" came in first in the fourth race at the track yesterday, and he paid 30 to 1." OOOPS!!! One word doesn't always convey the correct message*
  - c. We would go off the path if we pursued this in any great detail, but I wish to hit on this very briefly. The act of continuing does not mean that we are going to be saved if we continue. Instead it means that we will not be swayed and waver at the hope that we receive from the Gospel...it is not talking about Salvation in any stretch as we think of Salvation.
  - d. Lesson for us: Do we waver from our hope?
    - i. If we stay true to the doctrine of the resurrection, we are going to be able to withstand satan's attacks of doubt and fear
    - ii. By standing on the Gospel, we are going to live in any way that will bring about disgrace to God (as we talked about earlier). This is why we find what we do in **1 Corinthians 15:58**<sup>5</sup>
- IV. This is the hope that is firm in our future – **Titus 1:2**
  - a. We can know that God will fulfill all of His promises to us.
  - b. We can know that God is going to accomplish His work
  - c. The first evidence He gives us of this is the fulfillment of the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

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<sup>5</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.