



THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION (PT.1)

APRIL 8, 2023

1 PETER 1:3-5 NKJV – (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **(4)** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **(5)** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

When Peter wrote this letter to the church, he wanted to encourage those who'd become dispirited by earthly problems. He called the resurrection of Jesus Christ a living hope that will never die, even when circumstances look bleak.

Peter reminded the suffering believers that their trials were testing and refining their faith, so that it would be proved genuine and result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus returns. There's no better truth to keep in mind when you face your own sufferings. That being said, let's review this hope the resurrection of Christ provides.....

First, His resurrection assures us that our sins are forgiven. Think about this. Our redemption required a perfect sacrifice, over which death would have no power (**Hebrews 9:12**). Jesus' resurrection is proof that our sins, when placed on Him, could not defeat Him. Instead, He rose triumphant from the grave. Therefore, the Father accepted His Son's death on the cross as sufficient payment for our sins. Doesn't the make His Resurrection a reason for tremendous joy?

Our second hope is assurance hat Jesus is going to be with us. After His resurrection Jesus made this promise to His followers: "I am with you always to the end of the age" (**Matthew 28:20**). The temporal age Jesus referred to has not yet come to a close. You are a part of it right now, so you can be sure that even in hardships, He's present with you. Next week we will look at two more!

SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 8:31

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: No one has ever sinned themselves beyond the love of God.