



Part 3:
He is Risen

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Thirty years after the resurrection of Christ, the Apostle Peter penned the following words of encouragement to persecuted Christians in Asia Minor:

1 Peter 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God's great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. ⁴Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you.*

A great characteristic of the life of a believer is the presence of **hope**.

The source of that hope is the **belief** that Jesus Christ is resurrected and **alive** today.

Three statements of hope uttered during a 72-hour span in the earthly life of Jesus form the **foundation** of our living hope.

He is Risen: The Realization of Hope

The resurrection of Christ is the **cornerstone** of Christianity.

Everyone – Christians, Jews, seekers, skeptics and atheists all agree that the Christian faith is built on the belief that Jesus came out of the tomb **alive**.

The truth is, any hope for the believer is non-existent if Jesus Christ **remains** dead today.

Matthew 28:1-7 *Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow.⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."*

Three central truths of Christianity depend on the resurrection...

First...our **faith** in Christ depends on His resurrection.

Romans 1:3-4 *The Good News is about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As a man, he was born from the family of David. But through the Spirit of holiness he was declared to be God's Son with great power by rising from the dead.*

Second...our **salvation** in Christ depends on His resurrection.

Romans 4:24-25 *God will accept us also because we believe in the One who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.²⁵ Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God.*

Third...our eternal **hope** in Christ depends on His resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:17-19 *And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith has nothing to it; you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ And those in Christ who have already died are lost. ¹⁹ If our hope in Christ is for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone else in the world.*

Our Hopeful Response

If the single most consequential aspect of Jesus' suffering and death is His resurrection, then the single most consequential aspect of our lives is our **response** to it.

Just as the women who approached the tomb found the stone rolled away, anyone willing to **consider** the resurrection will find that God has already removed the barriers and made it possible for us to **examine** the evidence.

All we must do is **decide** how we're going to respond.

Turning Point...

Jesus as our Living Hope...

...demonstrates His **sovereignty** over sin.

...proclaims His **power** over sin.

...seals His **victory** over sin and death.