

Our Hope

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Introduction

1. Before Easter I shared with you the following messages

a. God sent His Son from Galatians 4:4 where Paul said
But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son,..

b. Light in Darkness from John 1:4-5

4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...

c. The Cross from John 19:17

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

d. Sunday is Here from Luke 24:5b-6a...
Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen:...

e. What Now from John 1:3a
Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee.

2. These messages

a. Dealt with hope for mankind through the coming of Jesus which His disciples and Apostles believed,

b. Then we saw their perplexity and confusion when Christ when to the Cross and died, and

c. Last week we talked about the decision to follow Christ or go back to their old way of life

3. These messages apply to us

a. For our hope is in the fact that Jesus came as God and Man

i. To live without sin and compromise, thus showing us that in the Spirit we can live without sin

- ii. To die as a sinless man as the perfect sacrifice for our sins to pay the penalty of sin, thus setting us free from sin
- iii. To be resurrected from the grave demonstrating that we are redeemed from the clutches of death, for through His resurrection, He crushed the head of satan giving us victory over death, hell, and the grave because He has the keys to death and hell.
- iv. We, though, must decide if we are going to serve Christ or live in this world of sin, and the question echoes to us today “do you love me more then these.”

4. Today, I want to share with you our hope in Christ

a. 1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- i. It is by the Mercy of God who is the Father of Jesus, that we have Hope
- ii. Our Hope is a lively Hope
- iii. We have this Hope because Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead

b. Definitions

i. Lively is from the Greek Word “Zao,” which means

- 1) To live, to breathe, to be among the living, not lifeless, nor dead
- 2) To enjoy real life
- 3) To have true life and worthy of the name
- 4) To be active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God
- 5) To be full of vigour, to be fresh, strong, efficient, active, powerful, efficacious

Note: Efficacious means effective, efficient, effectual, successful, so, if we are “Lively,” then we are effective, efficient, effectual, successful, and this is a part of our Hope in Christ through His resurrection

ii. Hope is from the Greek word “Elpis,” which means

- 1) An expectation of good or called hope
- 2) In the Christian sense it is joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation

iii. Thus through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God the Father has given us

- 1) A living breathing life of expectation of eternity with Him where we will never die
- 2) An opportunity to enjoy real life with the expectation every day of going to be with Him
- 3) True life where we can live worthy of the name Christian which gives us the expectation of eternity in the presence of God
- 4) An active, blessed, endless life in the kingdom of God
- 5) A life that is full of vigour, fresh, strong, efficient, active, powerful, effective, efficient, effectual, and successful through the Hope we have in Christ Jesus Who is alive at the right hand of the Father in eternal Glory

5. We have hope

- a. As we live through each phase of our lives
- b. As we stand by the grave our loved ones who go before us
- c. As we grow old and our health fails
- d. We have hope as we draw our last breath, because Christ who lives in me will give me life throughout eternity, even a new body at the day of resurrection

I. Christ brought us Hope

A. Notice the previous messages

1. God does things in His timing, and when the timing was right God sent His Son into the world
 - a. To redeem the world with His precious blood (1 Peter 1:)
 - b. To set us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2)
 - c. To purchase us with His own blood (Acts 20:28)
 - d. To crush the head of satan in fulfillment of Genesis 3:15
 - i. Then in Luke 10:19, Jesus said

...I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:

ii. Again in Mark 16:17-18, Jesus said

17) ...These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils;...18) They shall take up serpents;...

Note: These verses signifies that Jesus crushed the head of satan, and gave us, the church, authority over the enemy who is identified as serpents, scorpions, and devils.

e. To conquer death, hell, and the grave and in 1 Corinthians 15:56, 47 Paul said

56) "O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?...57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

f. To take the keys of authority from satan,

i. As Jesus said in Revelations 1:18

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

ii. As Jesus declared in Revelations 3:7

... These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

g. To restore authority to mankind, and so we hear Jesus giving us the power of Attorney

i. In Matthew 16:19

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

ii. In Matthew 18:18-19

18) Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

iii. Matthew 28:18-20

18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have

commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Light from above shined into the darkness of this world and hope was birthed into the heart of man
3. The Cross seemed like a place of death and sorrow, but it was on the Cross where Jesus paid it all for you and I, so we can be free from a debt which we owed, which we could never pay, but now, we are free from sin through our faith in Christ
4. Then three days later, Jesus came out of the grave victorious giving us hope of a resurrection day which will come, and those of us who know Christ live and die in the hope that as Jesus came forth with a new body, so we will have new bodies to live with Him forever more in the presence of God
5. There will be times in our lives where we go from a great high to a deep low and wonder, what do I do now, but in these times of extreme disappointments, we find Jesus asking the question, do you love me more than these, than we rise up and declare that we love Him demonstrating with our lives that we are committed to serving Christ, because in Him is our live and our Victory

B. In Christ is hope

1. He has always been the hope of the world, as the Law pointed to a sacrifice which would satisfy the penalty of sin
 - a. He is the Seed which crushed the head of the serpent
 - b. He is the Ram given in substitution for You and I
 - c. He is the Light that is shining in the world of darkness
 - d. He is the Promised Prophet who would come in the place of Moses to lead His children out of a world of slavery
 - e. He is the Joseph who would sustain us in the famines of the world
 - f. He is Moses and Joshua who leads us through the wilderness of this life taking us into the safety of our Promised Land
 - g. He is King David who restores the patter of worship through Praise and Adoration
 - h. He is our Lamb that was slain, and our Scapegoat who carried our sins away to never be returned unto us again, but forgotten behind the back of God in the Sea of Forgetfulness
 - i. He is our High Priest who offered His own blood on the altar of God for the remission

of our sins, then sat down at the right hand of God until all His enemies are His footstool.

j. He is the One who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a cruel death, buried in a borrowed tomb, then rose again bringing hope and life for all who would believe

k. He is the One who lives forever more ever making intercession for you and I

l. He is the One who gives us hope, that one day we will be with Him

II. Jesus left Hope in the midst of sorrow

A. Listen to Him in John 14

1) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

1. Do not be troubled

a. You may not understand, but do not be troubled

b. You may become afraid, but do not be troubled

c. You may suffer, but do not be troubled

2. If you believe in God, then believe also in Me, Jesus says

a. Hey, fellows, as long as you believe in God, keep believing in me

b. Hey fellows, looks are deceiving, keep believing in God and in Me

c. Hey fellows, your eyes and your feelings can deceive me, Believe in Me

3. I go to My Father's house to prepare a place (room) for you

a. I have got to go away, but I will not leave you comfortless

b. If you love, then my Father and I will come and make our abode with you

c. I will give you another Comforter who will guide and teach you

4. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

- a. I am coming back
- b. I will return for you
- c. You are My bride, so I will return to get my bride once I have prepared the bridal chamber
- d. Jesus is returning

B. They forgot what Jesus told them until after His resurrection

1. Jesus spent about 40 days with them speaking of the kingdom of God before He ascended into Heave according to acts 1:3
2. Notice Luke 24:45...
Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures
3. Jesus revealed Himself to them, and He reminded them of the hope which He had given them through His time here on earth

III. Hope left for the church

A. Jesus is returning

1. Jesus in John 14:1-3 said He would come back
2. Angels told those at Jesus' ascension that He would return in Acts 1:9-11

9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

3. Paul echoed this thought in

- a. 1st Corinthians 15:51-58

51) Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58) Therefore,

my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

b. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

13) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

B. Our Hope is in His Resurrection and in His Return

1. Hope is given because He is alive according to our text of 1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2. Notice what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:19

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

3. Then Paul said in v20 of 1 Corinthians 15:29-23

20) But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21) For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

4. Notice Paul's statements in

a. 1st Corinthians 15:57-58

57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

i. Our victory is in Christ

ii. We are to give thanks for our victory in Christ

iii. We are to remain stedfast, unmoveable, continuing to abound in God's work so as labor will not be in vain in the Lord, which means there will be an award, so rejoice in Him

- b. 1st Thessalonians 4:18...Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
- i. Greet people with the Lord is returning
 - ii. Remind folks when their world is turned upside down that Jesus is returning
 - iii. Tell folks who are perplexed by the events of our world today that Jesus is returning
 - iv. As people grieve beside a hospital bed, remind them that there is a place where there is no more pain, sorrow, heartache, parting, but life and peace forever more because Jesus is returning
 - v. Those who weep over a grave need to be reminded that there will be a resurrection day when Jesus returns and brings the dead in Christ with Him, then those in the grave will come forth in their new body, and we will be changed to rise with them to meet Christ in the air

Conclusion

1. Christ is the only hope in this world
2. Again, note the words of the song "If you Knew Him" by the Perry's

I walked by the tomb of Buddha
 Looked inside, and saw his bones.
 Traveled on to see Mohammed,
 Still wrapped up in his grave clothes.
 Then I journeyed to a garden
 Where old Joseph left Him lay.
 The precious Lamb, God's own begotten,
 Was no longer in that grave.

If you knew Him like I know Him
 You would know that He's alive.
 If you felt Him like I feel Him
 Resurrection, deep inside!
 You'd know He's living,
 And death has died.

If you're wandering in the darkness
 Come and step into the light.
 Nail scarred hands reach out to help you,
 To pull you safe from death to life.
 Friend, I, too, have stood where you stand.
 Couldn't trust in things unseen,

Just one step in His direction,
Then in Love, He ran to me!

If you knew Him like I know Him
You would know that He's alive.
If you felt Him like I feel Him
Resurrection, deep inside!
You'd know He's living,
And death has died.

You ask me how I know He lives,
He lives within my heart!

If you felt Him like I feel Him
Resurrection, deep inside!
You'd know He's living,
And death has died.
Death has died!

3. Only in Christ will you find Hope, and that Hope is available for you today

4. Jesus is calling you as He said in Matthew 11:28-30

28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.