

The Hope of the Resurrection
1 Peter 1:3-5

April 20, 2014

- A. “³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5)
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^E 1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 17-18, 20
^F 1 Corinthians 15:52, Jeremiah 2:7, Revelation 21:27
^G Revelation 21:27, 13:8
^H John 10:29
^I 1 Corinthians 2:9

—{1}. **1 Peter 1:3-5. The Hope of the Resurrection**

A. Introduction

1. The Beginning of Life —{2}.

- a. On April 5th, 1943, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was arrested and imprisoned by the Gestapo for political activities against the German Nazi regime. He had spoken out against the Nazis. Eventually his words caught up with him. He saw the persecution of the church of Jesus Christ He wrote that the country was heading toward a religion-less abyss. He decided to do something about it. He regretted his involvement in some situations that he perhaps should have avoided.
- b. Two years later he found himself facing the death sentence. It was Sunday. He led a service in the prison which housed men of various nationalities. One prisoner, an English army officer who though also facing the death sentence was later set free, describes that service:
- c. "Bonhoeffer always seemed to me to spread an atmosphere of happiness and joy over the least incident and profound gratitude for the mere fact that he was alive ... He was one of the very few persons I have ever met for whom God was real and always near ... On Sunday, April 8, 1945, Pastor Bonhoeffer conducted a little service of worship and spoke to us in a way that went to the heart of all of us. He found just the right words to express the spirit of our imprisonment, the thoughts and the resolutions it had brought us. He had hardly ended his last prayer when the door opened and two civilians entered. They said, 'Prisoner Bonhoeffer, come with us.' That had only one meaning for all prisoners – the gallows. We said good-by to him. He took me aside: 'This is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life.' The next day he was hanged in Flossenburg.
- d. "This is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life." What was it that so possessed this man that at the very moment of his death he could say that? What was the hope that he possessed, and why was he able to cling to it? Why could not even the sentence of death take it away?

2. The Answer of the Resurrection

- a. the answer to that question has been
 - (A) in the hymns we have been singing this morning
 - (B) in the words of the special music that the ladies sang

- (C) in the Scriptures that we have read; in our text this morning
- b. it is the living hope that we have because of Christ's resurrection
- c. for a few moments, let us consider this text, 1 Peter 1:3-5

B. This Hope Rests upon God 1 Peter 1:3a

1. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope ...

2. The Father's Plan

- a. later in this chapter, the great basis on which our salvation rests, is described – our ransom from sin and death was not paid by such perishable things as silver and gold, 'but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.' (1 Peter 1:19)
- b. and then goes on to say, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you" (1 Peter 1:20) – that is Christ came and died for your sake
- c. In the councils of God in eternity before the worlds was, God knew our sin and planned our salvation in Jesus Christ

3. The Father's Mercy

- a. why should God do this for a mankind who would and has rebelled against Him? His holiness and justice demands their punishment
- b. but the answer lies in that wonderful word, mercy – the love of God towards man, His creation, expressed in devising man's salvation
- c. "He made (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Born Anew to the Father

- a. Before even Nicodemus could ask a question, Jesus answered the one on his heart: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)
- b. that, too, was part of God's plan, that a person redeemed through Christ should become His child, part

of His family: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

c. so our hope rests not upon ourselves, but wholly upon our Father God

C. This Hope Is Proven by Christ's Resurrection 1 Peter 1:3b

1. ... God ... has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2. The Meaning of Hope

- a. our use of the word, 'hope,' in everyday speech is quite weak
- b. it is almost the equivalent of 'wish' – the looking for an unlikely event
- c. but the word, as used in the Bible, is not so wishy-washy as this
- d. it conveyed the idea of an expectation: something which had been covenanted and would take place under the terms of that covenant
- e. **Illustration: my children know the contents of my will, its conditions, their responsibilities, and have a firm expectation from it as a result**
- f. it is not 'hope so' but rather looking for the fulfilment of a promise

3. A Living Hope

- a. one of the qualities of the true God is that He is the living God
- b. that same quality marked God the Son when He entered the world: "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men." (John 1:4)
- c. so Jesus, who is the "living bread" (John 6:51), who provides the "living water" (John 4:10), is the One who gives "living hope"
- d. a hope upon which we can rely,

4. Because Christ Lives

- a. in the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul lays it all on the line – it is upon the resurrection of Jesus

Christ that Christianity depends:

- b. "12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ... 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished." (1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 17-18)
- c. as the cross is central to our salvation, so the resurrection is central to the truth and power of the gospel; so Paul's triumphant conclusion is,
- d. "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- e. because Christ lives, then Christians, too, shall certainly live!

D. This Hope Is Absolutely Certain 1 Peter 1:4

1. "to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

2. Our Inheritance Is Flawless

- a. **imperishable** – silver and gold seem so material;
 - (A) so lasting – gold does not even tarnish – but in contrast to our inheritance, they are perishable
 - (B) but what about our hope? ... our expectation? "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:52) – it will never perish
- b. **undefiled** – the word means untainted, unpolluted, unstained
 - (A) an earthly inheritance was provided to the children of Israel, but it was not immune to the effects of sin; of it, God said
 - (B) "I brought you into the fruitful land To eat its fruit and its good things. But you came and defiled My land, And My inheritance you made an abomination." (Jeremiah 2:7)
 - (C) the place Christ is gone to prepare for us is not so: "and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, ..." (Revelation 21:27)

- c. **unfading** – it is enduring; of unquenchable brightness
 - (A) remember that brand-new car you bought? ... how quickly its lustre faded ... that brand-new odour disappeared!
 - (B) but the glory of our inheritance will never fade: God is its light

3. God's Reservation System Is Faultless

- a. have you ever book a holiday, and arriving at your destination found that the reservation has been lost – the panic as you stood with all your luggage, waiting to see if a room or berth could be found
- b. that will never be the case for the Christian's inheritance
- c. let's complete that verse, Revelation 21:27, "... **but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**" (Revelation 21:27)
- d. the Christian's reservation in that inheritance is eternally "... **written in the book of life from the foundation of the world ...**" (Revelation 13:8)
- e. that is an enduring record and we can count on it!

E. Those Hoping Are Protected by God 1 Peter 1:5

- 1. **who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

2. God's Power

- a. one of the names of God is 'the Almighty' – the One in whom is found all power – the omnipotent – our Rock, our Fortress
- b. yes, there is an enemy who would attack, turn us from God
- c. so that Jesus Himself has testified to this protective power for Christians, saying, "**My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**" (John 10:29) – that protection makes our hope sure

3. Our Faith

- a. it is to God and to God alone to bring about our salvation
- b. it is to us but to trust in Christ's work upon the cross on our behalf as proven by His resurrection from

the dead; this brings us to our ...

4. Salvation Consummated

- a. you who have trusted in Jesus Christ already know salvation's blessing
- b. however, the half has never yet been told
- c. "But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV)

F. Conclusion: All this, then, because we serve a risen Saviour!

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ASV American Standard Version of 1901
AV Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
WEY The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of the commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

Barnes – *Notes on the New Testament, et alia*, by Rev Albert Barnes, Gall & Inglis, Edinburgh
EBC – *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan
EGT – *The Expositor’s Greek Testament*, Hodder & Stoughton
Kerux – The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, www.holwick.com.
RWP – *Robertson’s Word Pictures of the New Testament*, by Dr. A. T. Robertson

2. Adapted from '*How Can We Maintain a Living Hope in the midst of Suffering?*', by Rev. Ron R. Ritchie, Peninsula Bible Church, Palo Alto, California – Kerux Sermon #5839