

## **“Hope Starts Here”: EASTER**

### 1 Corinthians 15

- We can be going along fine in life but hit an obstacle (loss, betrayal, tragedy, disappointment) and feel the hope drain from our soul. This must be what Jesus friends experienced when they witnessed his death  
BUT that is only half the story. Easter is about the resurrection! [Matt 28.1-8]

#### **Big Idea: Hope starts with the Resurrection.**

- 1 Corinthians 15: [961] **1)** What Resurrection is, **2)** What it means for us.
- Resurrection is: Not: Resuscitation [v47]; Not: Freed Spirit [v44]; Not: Reincarnation [v38]  
But Resurrection is **“Raised to life with an imperishable body after having been dead.”**
- [**1Cor 15.1-6**] the good news is: **Jesus died** (witnessed by many, buried, etc) and **Jesus rose again** (seen by 100’s of people)
- The argument: IF Jesus was resurrected > THEN resurrection is a thing  
IF resurrection is a thing > THEN there is reason to hope. [**vs12-14**]
- IF Jesus was not resurrected THEN our faith is **“in vain”**  
> all the traditions, prayers, songs, ceremonies, moral living...pointless BUT he did rise!
- \*Most of us believe Jesus died and rose again BUT have you considered the significance in a way that transforms your life? Consider: 2 reasons Easter (resurrection) is where Hope begins.

#### **1. Because of the resurrection, there is hope of forgiveness**

- [**V3, v17**] Jesus’ death and resurrection dealt with humanity’s sin. My sin. Yours..
- Sometimes: the thing that drains our hope is not external but internal - awareness of our sin.  
RESULT: We live with guilt and inner uncertainty
- Whether crippled by shame (drained of hope) or blinded by pride (filled with false hope)  
Result: **“The reality of sin means we have no substantive reason to live with bright confidence about the future...”**  
**BUT Jesus died and rose to provide forgiveness of sin.**
- Life of regret? Haunted by shame? Distant from God?..  
> There is hope of forgiveness because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.  
But the resurrection assures us of much more than forgiveness...

#### **2. Because of the resurrection, there is hope of eternal life [v18-19]**

- Paul: IF practicing christianity is only a help **in this life only..** (Psychological comfort, etc.)  
Then **we are of all people most to be pitied.**
- [**Vs 18**] if no resurrection then people who follow Jesus **“have perished”** - (forever ruined, devoid of hope) BUT [**John 3.16**] whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- IF Jesus was resurrected > THEN Resurrection is a thing > THEN there is hope of eternal life for anyone who believes.

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- **“The reality of death means we have no substantive reason to live with bright confidence about the future...BUT Jesus died and rose to provide eternal life.**
- **Q:** Are YOU hope-filled (Substantive reason to live with bright confidence.. OR has “reality of inner brokenness”, “uncertainty of life” drained your hope?
- **SOME:** have not yet found the beginning place of hope: “a relationship with God by faith in Jesus” **Q:** Will you start today? ***Whoever believes in him will have eternal life.***
- **SOME:** have found hope in Jesus but live in uncertainty, shame, anxiety

**CHALLENGE:** Walk in Hope.