

# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

## EASTER 2017

April 16, 2017

Pastor Brian

### THE 3 DAYS OF EASTER:

FRIDAY: A day of SUFFERING.

SATURDAY: A day of SILENCE.

*"I feel hopeless, and I cry out to you..." (Psalm 61:2a, CEV)*

#### 1. THE CROSS TOLD MARY MAGDALENE LOVE HAS LEFT YOU.

*"Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY LORD," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." (John 20:11–13, NLT)*

#### 2. THE TOMB TOLD THOMAS HIS DREAMS WERE BURIED.

*"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ...One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I WON'T BELIEVE it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." (John 20:19–25, NLT)*

#### 3. THE STONE TOLD PETER THERE'S NO HOPE FOR FORGIVENESS.

*"While Peter was in the courtyard, a servant girl of the high priest came there. She saw Peter warming himself at the fire and looked closely at him. Then she said, "You also were with Jesus, that man from Nazareth." But Peter said that he was never with Jesus. He said, "I don't know or understand what you are talking about." Then Peter left and went toward the entrance of the courtyard. And the rooster crowed. The servant girl saw Peter there, and again she said to the people who were standing nearby, "This man is one of those who followed Jesus." Again Peter said that it was not true. A short time later, some people were standing near Peter saying, "Surely you are one of those who followed Jesus, because you are from Galilee, too." Then PETER BEGAN TO PLACE A CURSE ON HIMSELF AND SWEAR, "I don't know this man you're talking about!" At once, the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: "Before the rooster crows*

twice, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then PETER LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF AND BEGAN TO CRY." (Mark 14:66–72, NCV)

*And then...*

**SUNDAY: A day of CELEBRATION.**

**1. EASTER TOLD MARY I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!**

*"She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. IT WAS JESUS, BUT SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher")...Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message." (John 20:14–18, NLT)*

*"I pray that GOD, THE SOURCE OF HOPE, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13, NLT)*

**2. EASTER TOLD THOMAS THERE'S A REASON TO BELIEVE!**

*"A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are MY LORD AND MY GOD!" Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!" (John 20:26–29, CEV)*

*"...your trust can be in God who raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. Now YOUR FAITH AND HOPE CAN REST IN HIM ALONE." (1 Peter 1:21, The Living Bible)*

**3. EASTER TOLD PETER IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR A FRESH START!**

*"Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee...This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead. After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, DO YOU LOVE ME more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a*

third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "THEN FEED MY SHEEP." (John 21:1,14–17, NLT)

"Yes, the old system...was canceled because it didn't work. It was weak and useless for saving people. It never made anyone really right with God. But NOW WE HAVE A FAR BETTER HOPE, for Christ makes us acceptable to God, and now we may draw near to him." (Hebrews 7:18–19, The Living Bible)

### **HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE THE HOPE OF EASTER?**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"*  
(1 Peter 1:3, NIV)

### **BELIEVE AND RECEIVE**

*"And now, Lord, what future do I have?  
You are my only hope."  
(Psalm 39:8, NAB)*