

# HOPE

WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE IT

# The Reason for Hope

# Ephesians 1:18-20 CEV

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and you will understand the hope given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all God's people. I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven.

# Hope – more than emotion

- Hope is real ...
- Hope changes how we live
- With Hope we face future with confidence ... regardless ...
- With Hope we KNOW God is good ... faithful ... trustworthy

# President Snow, Hunger Games

**Hope**, it is the only thing **stronger than fear**. A little hope is effective, **a lot of hope is dangerous**. Spark is fine, as long as it's contained.

# Atheism

Bertrand Russell - Man's origin, his growth, his hopes, his loves and beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental connections of atoms. All the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin.

# Hinduism & Buddhism

- Huge debt of "bad karma"
- Sinful acts that we can't remember

# Islam

- Allah very erratic god ... no assurance accepted
- Qur'an, Sura 3:54 — "The greatest deceiver of them all is Allah."
- He may forgive or he may not.



**The resurrection is the lynchpin  
of Christianity.**

# 1 Corinthians 15:14

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless, and so is your faith.

# 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

# 1. Jesus was killed by crucifixion.

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Tacitus
- Josephus

# Death always the outcome

Cicero - "It is cruel and disgusting, so horrendous that the very word "cross" should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen, but also from his thoughts, his eyes, and his ears."

# Death always the outcome

**Historian Dr. Michael Licona** - "The fact that Jesus was crucified and died as a result, is as solid as anything in ancient history. The scholarly consensus across the board, from believers to atheists, is overwhelming. To deny it would be to take a position that would get you laughed out of the academic world."

## 2. Jesus' disciples believed He rose and appeared to them.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV)** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

## 2. Jesus' disciples believed He rose and appeared to them.

- The Apostle Paul's testimony about the disciples.
- Written sources – Gospels ... Apostolic Fathers
- Persecution and martyrdom proved they believed as fact



### 3. Antagonists converted and became Jesus' followers

Saul persecuted church ... transformed by personal encounter with risen Jesus

1 Corinthians 9:1 - "Am I not as free as anyone else? Am I not an apostle? Haven't I seen Jesus our Lord with my own eyes? Isn't it because of my work that you belong to the Lord?"

### 3. Antagonists converted and became Jesus' followers

Jesus' skeptical half-brother, James, converted to follow Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:7 – "Then He appeared to James."

## 4. Jesus' tomb was empty.

- Jesus was publicly executed and buried in Jerusalem, then His resurrection was proclaimed in the very same city.
- Enemies created story of stolen body ... because tomb was empty!

# The Reason for Hope

# Resurrection

- Hope in Jesus' wisdom.

Matthew 7:24–25 (NIV) Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

# Resurrection

- Hope in Jesus' friendship.

Matthew 28:20 (NIV) And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

# Resurrection

- Hope in Jesus' guidance.

Mt 11:28-29 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

# Resurrection

- Hope in Jesus' sovereignty.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NIV) Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



# Resurrection

- Hope in my future with Jesus.

**1 Peter 1:3-4** (NIV) 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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...

# Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend,

# Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11

a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. ... He has made everything beautiful in its time.



*Brandon Heckler*

**LEAD PASTOR, GCF FORT WORTH**

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2021

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR JIM BEAVER:  
OCTOBER 24, 2021**

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