

Look again at the words...

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God."

- Somehow, between the Last Supper and His death, Peter realized what Jesus was doing
 - Maybe in the Garden
 - Maybe as Jesus hung on the Cross



Hanging on Jesus while He hung on the Cross were our sins



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"At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, *"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"* which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

- Matthew 27:45



So part of the Hope of Easter is the Cross of Christ

- The death of Jesus (who was without sin) paid the price for all sin (past, present, future) for anyone who would accept His sacrifice on their behalf



That's the Good about Friday



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- Forgiveness of sin
- The separation from God that each person experiences because of sin is destroyed by the power of the sacrifice of Jesus



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 - It's the choice of each person to accept or reject

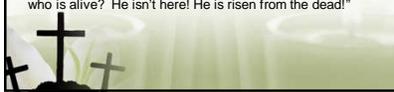


But what about Sunday?



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"But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!"



But what about Sunday?

"Remember what He told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that He would rise again on the third day." Then they remembered that He had said this. So they rushed back from the tomb to tell His eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it..."



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- Luke 24:1-12



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"He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit.."



Part of the Hope of Easter is being raised to life in the Spirit



Part of the Hope of Easter is being raised to life in the Spirit

- How can you follow a dead man?
 - Jesus' Resurrection demonstrates God's power over physical death through the Power of the Holy Spirit



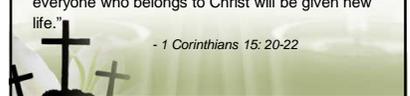
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- How can you follow a dead man?
 - Jesus' Resurrection demonstrates God's power over physical death through the Power of the Holy Spirit
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is what lives in His disciples as they seek and follow Him



Part of the Hope of Easter is being raised to life in the Spirit

"Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man (Jesus). Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life."
- 1 Corinthians 15: 20-22



But the story still isn't finished



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"Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority..."



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"Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority..."

Say what?



Christ ascended into heaven with Authority over all things



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- Over sin
 - If He forgives it, it is covered and gone



Christ ascended into heaven with Authority over all things

- Over sin
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- Over death
 - Those who follow Him live eternally with Him



Christ ascended into heaven with Authority over all things

- Over sin
 - If He forgives it, it is covered and gone
- Over death
 - Those who follow Him live eternally with Him
- Over condemnation and guilt
 - He takes the consequences and creates beauty



The Hope of Easter is in the completed work of Christ

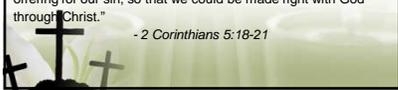
- He paid it all, accomplished it all, and empowers it all - all because it was the plan of God - Father, Son and Spirit - for the relationship to be redeemed



The Hope of Easter is in the completed work of Christ

"And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!' For God made Christ (who never sinned) to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21



We need the Hope of Easter

- Forgiveness of our sins



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We need the Hope of Easter

- Forgiveness of our sins
- Life on earth filled with the Power of the Spirit
- Eternal life in heaven
- Relationship with God reconciled and redeemed
- Hope restored
 - If you've got it - praise God
 - If you don't, why wait?



The world needs the Hope of Easter,
and those who accept it to share it



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"And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!"



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- Let's allow this perspective to shape our lives



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- Let's be ready with an answer for our Hope
 - Gentle, respectful



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- Let's live with desire to have a clear conscience



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- Let's allow this perspective to shape our lives
- Let's be ready with an answer for our Hope
 - Gentle, respectful
- Let's live with desire to have a clear conscience
- Let's see our lives as an opportunity for God's power to be displayed to the world



The incredible Hope of Easter

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- What was impossible is offered to us



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- Only Jesus Christ, through the plan of God the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit can do this



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