

## Living in Light of the Empty Tomb – A Living Hope

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3-9 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. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

### 1. A hope that can't be diminished because it's based upon Christ's victorious resurrection.

1 Peter 1:3 [God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

- A hope that is alive

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- A hope produced from Jesus' resurrection

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

### 2. A hope that can't be quenched because it's built upon God's unchanging character.

1 Peter 1:3 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.

Psalms 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.

Psalms 34:1-3

- God is merciful.

- Millard Erickson: "God's mercy is His tenderhearted, loving compassion for His people."

- 2 Corinthians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

- Psalm 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.
- God doesn't just act mercifully. God is merciful. It's part of His character.

- **Because God is merciful, we can be saved.**

- John 3:3 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

### 3. A hope that can't be minimized because it's bolstered by God's living promises.

2 Peter 1:4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

- **The promise of a rich inheritance**

1 Peter 1:3-4 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.

- **The promise of secure protection.**

1 Peter 1:3-5 ...according to His great mercy, [God] 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.

- Protected from what? Our spiritual enemy. Eternal destruction. Purposeless lives.
- Protected by what? We are protected by the power of God.

John 10:28-29 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 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.

How does the promise of a living hope impact how you will live your life?