

Resurrection Sunday

April 4th & 5th, 2015

1 Peter 1:3

Peter begins his letter to the exiles with a call to praise God!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!...”

- ❖ Peter is writing to exiles driven from their homes and families because of their faith!
In the natural, many of their circumstances were hopeless.
- ❖ Praise to God is not conditional on our circumstances!

Peter reminds Christians of God’s mercy!

“...According to His great mercy, ...”

- ❖ Mercy is not getting what we deserve!
📖 Ephesians 2:1-5

Lamentations 3:22-23 “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

Peter emphasizes that God initiated the Christian’s new life in Christ!

“...He has caused us to be born again...”

- ❖ Christianity is not a religion with rules to be followed so that we can be right with God.
Christianity is a new life!

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;”

Peter revealed the result of God’s supernatural work of life transformation!

“...born again to a living hope...”

- ❖ Apart from God, people are hopeless!
- ❖ Jesus’ exhibited compassion on people.
Matthew 9:36 “When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- ❖ Jesus is the living hope!
 - ↳ The “Leper” was in a hopeless physical condition. ... *“And behold, a leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, ‘Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.’” Matthew 8:2*
 - ↳ The woman had suffered with bleeding for 12 years. ... *Luke 8:43-48*
 - ↳ Lazarus was dead! ... *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. ...’” John 11:25*
- ❖ “Hope” is not wishful thinking – but confident expectation of good!

Peter declared the reason Christians can now live in this new hope and confidence!

“...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

Romans 6:4-5 “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.”

Romans 8:10-11 “But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.”

❖ Thomas at first doubted, but when Jesus appeared to him after the resurrection he boldly declared ...
“My Lord and my God!”

📖 John 20:24-29

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’” John 11:25-27

Endnote:

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