



Easter Hope!

John 5:19-29a 1 Corinthians 15:12-23; 35-44; 51-57

April 1, 2018

Pastor Dave Bolte

Today, we have hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! The good news of Easter is that Jesus is alive, He has risen from the dead, and our hope is based squarely on Him!

Hope is confident faith in God's promises of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

Hope is deep trust that God will keep His promise that you will **survive death and escape the final judgment** through faith in Christ.

Hope is tenacious, it is strong and certain; it does not waver nor doubt God's promises.

Hope is not simply "**wishful thinking**" or *misplaced "optimism"*.

† **Hope** is confident faith and it is **assured** and it is **guaranteed**.

† **Hope** is absolutely certain **because** it rests on the Lord Jesus Christ and His Resurrection from the dead.

† **Hope** is not dependent on you but on Lord Jesus Christ!

Hope is the unshakeable conviction of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting that we have in the risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

† Hope is created by the Holy Spirit *Romans 15:13*

† It is strengthened through the Word of God *Romans 15:4*

† Hope is fixed on God and His Promises *Psalms 62:5*

† It makes you strong and courageous *Psalms 31:24*

† Hope is a firm and secure anchor for your soul *Hebrews 6:19*

† You are to hold unswervingly to your hope *Hebrews 10:23*

† Your boast is in the hope you have in God *Romans 5:2*

† You are to always be ready to share your hope with other people *1 Peter 3:15*

Our **hope** rests squarely on Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead.

Because He lives, we also shall live . . . THAT IS OUR HOPE!

Do you have that hope today?

Do you know and believe that Jesus is risen from the dead?

Do you have the conviction that you too will rise from the dead and live forever?

We all desperately need this hope, because death is a terrible reality in our lives. Death is the result of sin --- the sin you were conceived and born with, as well as the sin you actually commit. You sin every time you break the Ten Commandments; you sin when you fail to love the Lord your God with all of your heart; when you take His name in vain; when you do not faithfully worship Him or obey His Holy Word. You sin when you do not love, help, and serve your neighbor. Sin leaves you broken and helpless before God. Death is the result of your sin. Your conscience tells you all this; your conscience not only exposes your sin, but it is frightened of the thought of death and dying. You know you will “meet your maker” on Judgment Day.

We ALL need Hope.

We need words of life.

We need someone who *guarantees*
that we will **survive death** and **escape the final judgment!**

That is why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so important!

Jesus is the only one who has the certain and sure words of eternal life!

In Christ, you will **survive death** and you will **escape the final judgment!**

That strong faith and deep conviction in Christ is called Hope!

Our hope rests squarely on Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead.

Today believe that He has risen from the dead and gives you eternal life. **The moment you die, you are immediately in the presence of Christ in Heaven.**

Through faith in Christ, you will survive death!

And then on the Last Day, when Jesus returns, He promises that **you will be declared, “not guilty!” of your sins on Judgement Day**, and **your dead and buried body will rise from the dead and live forever**, just as His dead and buried body rose from the dead and lives forever! **You will escape the final judgement and live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven!**

[Jesus said,] “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are **in their graves** will hear his voice **and come out!** JOHN 5:28-29

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the **resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.** For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ all will be made alive.** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23

The promise is that the moment you die, you are immediately in the presence of Christ in Heaven. Your sins are forgiven, and you will be judged, “not guilty!” on Judgement Day. On the Last Day, when Jesus returns, your body will rise from the dead and you will live forever in Heaven in both body and soul!

We confess this in the Apostles’ Creed when we say that we believe in the “*resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting*”.

THIS IS OUR HOPE.

We have confident faith that God will keep these promises!

When the Bible talks about the resurrection of the dead bodies on the Last Day, it teaches that it will be the same body that you have now, but it will be transformed, glorified, and without the effects of sin.

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised **imperishable**; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in **glory**; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in **power**; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a **spiritual body**. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
1 CORINTHIANS 15:42-44

The resurrection of your body on the Last Day is your **personal Easter!** Our resurrected bodies will have **NO SIN** or weaknesses or diseases! The Bible uses words like “**spiritual, imperishable, immortal, glorious, and powerful**” to describe our resurrected bodies! ***Just as Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, so too, you will rise from the dead on the Last Day!***

THIS IS HOPE!

Confident faith that God will keep these promises!

God’s promises are true and trustworthy!

**Believe that God is telling you the truth
and that it applies to you personally!**

Hope changes you and influences you! Your hope enables you to **stand firm** in faith.

- † The hope you have in Christ strengthens you to **patiently endure** any bodily difficulties that you are facing now. No matter how much pain and suffering you are in, no matter what disease you are battling, no matter how much your body is affected by the brokenness of sin, it is only temporary. On the Last Day, you will have a perfect, sinless, glorified body without any disease or pain. **HOPE allows you to focus beyond the present pain and to the joys of Heaven.** The Promise of the Resurrection of the Body strengthens you to patiently endure as you trust in God's promise and look forward to your personal Resurrection from the Dead on the last day! **Stand firm in your hope!**
- † **Hope is also your witness! You tell others about Christ whenever you talk about your hope!** The Bible teaches us to always be prepared to talk about the **HOPE** that we have in Christ. Remember, very few people have hope. **HOPE** is noticeable, especially in discussions about pain and suffering, death and dying. Use your **HOPE** in Christ to guide you as you talk to others. Simply by explaining what Hope means you are a witness for Christ and sharing your faith! **Bear witness to your hope! You tell others about Christ whenever you talk about your hope!**
- † Hope gives you zeal in faith and drives you to work and use your gifts in the Kingdom of God. **Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.** Hope motivates you to weekly worship of the Lord; Hope moves you to use your gifts to help others to learn about Christ and the hope that He has for them as well. Hope drives you to be faithful in your vocations as you glorify God and serve other people.

Hope changes your life!

By the grace of God, you are some of the few who believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. God has blessed you and He has given you hope. **Hope is confident faith in the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting that we have in the Risen Savior Jesus Christ!**

You will survive death,

You will escape the final judgment, and

Your body will rise from the dead on the last Day!

ALL OF THIS is only

because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!