

What Does Easter Mean, To Me, Today?

April 20, 2025

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. *1 Peter 1:3 (NASB95)*

Every year, we celebrate Easter! The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! For many, Easter is an event on a calendar, for Christians, the resurrection is much more. Writing to the early church, Peter begins with an introduction (1 Peter 1:1-2) and suddenly bursts forth with a powerful doxology (hymn of praise, 1 Peter 1:3-5)! Peter's praise was the overflow from a life impacted by the reality of the resurrection. Peter's letter to the 1st century Christians was a message of great hope. The theme of these verses is "hope", not just any hope but the hope that has its basis in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that your daily life will be impacted by the confident hope that is ours because of the resurrection!

PETER BELIEVED JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

3 groups of people:

- I believe the resurrection is a fact!
- I'm not sure if the resurrection is true?
- I do not believe Jesus rose from the dead!

2 sources of evidence to consider:

- Biblical evidence
- Historical/extra-biblical evidence

Recommended resources:

- Lee Strobel *The Case for the Resurrection*
- J. Warner Wallace <https://coldcasechristianity.com/?s=resurrection>
- Sean McDowell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH69A4Z0iqQ>
- Lee Strobel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ltcj8mhMcA>
- N.T. Wright *The Resurrection of the Son of God*
- Tim Keller *Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter*
- Jeremiah J. Johnston *Body of Proof*



Questions:

- If you are unsure, these resources will help to strengthen your faith.
- If you do not believe Jesus rose from the dead, are you willing to investigate the evidence for the resurrection?

“If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn’t rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.” *Tim Keller*

- If you believe, **WHAT DOES EASTER MEAN, TO YOU, TODAY?**

PETER BELIEVED THE RESURRECTION MADE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY IN HIS LIFE!

Key Terms/phrases:

- His great mercy -
- Has caused us to be born again (John 3:3)
- Living
 1. Bios – physical lifespan, duration, life in the outward (Matthew 6:25)
 2. Psuche – soul, inner life, get our word “psychology” – (Matthew 16:25)
 3. Zao – eternal life, everlasting life (John 1:1-4, John 10:10, John 14:6)

It is a lively hope, that is, not only living, but actively alive, an energizing principle of divine life in the believer, a Christian hopefulness and optimism produced in the believer yielded to the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is both an attitude of expectancy as the Christian looks forward to the inheritance awaiting him in heaven, and a hopefulness of present blessing from God in this life in view of the eternal blessedness of the believer in the next life.¹

- Hope – confident optimism for the future, (Romans 15:13)

Biblical hope is **a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future**. There is moral certainty in it.

- “Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997). Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader (Vol. 11, pp. 20–21). Eerdmans.



Key take aways:

Every day the resurrection gives you confident expectation (hope)...

- God's promises are true.
- Jesus dealt with your sin issue.
- God has power greater than death! (1 Corinthians 15:21)
- Death has been defeated, and you have the promise of eternal life! (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)
- God is bigger than anything you will face. (1 Peter 1:4-5)
- You can live with confidence in God's power. (Romans 8:11)

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. *Romans 15:13 (NASB95)*