

**1 Peter 1:3-9
Resurrection Hope
(Our Sure Reality)**

What is hope? Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it three way: to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or be true, to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment, to expect with confidence. This is not totally what we, disciples of Christ, mean when we say hope. Our hope is more than a longing for something to be true or to happen. It is more than confidence. Our hope, biblical hope, derives from the certainty of God's word, Jesus' Gospel. So, resurrection hope is that which we are certain has transpired because Jesus was raised from the grave. It is the joyful and certain expectation of eternal salvation. This is what this day of celebration is all about and it is what our text of focus unpacks for us. So, drawing from this Easter text I want to share the five aspects of our sure reality that flow from resurrection hope.

First aspect, what we are in Christ is God's doing. It can't be undone.

V3a ³ "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead." In case we are not convinced on this Easter morning let me remind us that the death and resurrection of Jesus changed what was possible for every human being. Peter says it best in **1 Peter 2:10**, "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." Faith in Jesus, specifically that he died for your sin and rose from the dead for your salvation, results in one being born again and received into the family of God, by no merit or work of your own. Listen! Jesus lived for us the life we cannot live, a life of perfect

obedience to God, and he died, in our place, a death we all deserve because of our sinfulness. And his resurrection from the dead secures for all who believe victory over sin and death. Who we are in Jesus, those who have been born again and received into the family of God, is not the result of anything we have done or could do. It is God's doing through faith and this is marvelous news this Easter morning.

John 6:63, 65 ⁶³“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life..... ⁶⁵Then he said, “That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me.” **NLT**

Second aspect, we live with expectancy. V3b-4 “Now we live with great expectation,⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.” Above all others we, disciples of Jesus, live with expectancy because of the certainty of His resurrection. We live life knowing that what awaits us is far beyond the human capacity to fully describe. And it is this expectancy that changes life right now. This expectancy changes how we respond to and view our circumstances. It is this expectancy that convinces me everything I go through as follower of Jesus is working for my good. Listen, are you living in this expectancy? If not, you will find life be most disappointing and Jesus unsatisfactory.

Romans 8:17-18,28 ¹⁷“And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. ¹⁸Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.... ²⁸And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” **NLT**

Third aspect, since faith saved us, we can trust faith to keep us. V5

“⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.” If we have been given to Jesus by the Father. If what has happened to us is the work of God in our hearts through faith in His Son how could you ever be lost again? How could you not persevere? How could you not obey and follow? How could one ever lose his or her inheritance? Not possible because of the power of God, which keeps us. This power being his Holy Spirit.

John 6:39-40 “³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.” **NLT**

2 Cor 1:21-22 “²¹ It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, ²² and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.” **NLT**

Fourth aspect, exceeding joy lies ahead. V6-7 “⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So, when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

The suffering we will endure as his followers is the precursor for our future joy. In other words, our suffering for Jesus will not be in vain.

Hear me. Suffering is a necessary experience for our maturation in the faith. No suffering, no spiritual maturity. No suffering for the faith,

little to no assurance we are his. Listen, suffering for Jesus brings about great elation for it is indication that one belongs to him; that one is faithfully following him, attending to his agenda. Are you experiencing any discomfort because of your faithfulness to Jesus? Be exceedingly glad! Rejoice! Joy lies ahead.

Matt 10:22 “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” **NIV**

2 Tim 3:12 “¹²Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **NLT**

1 Pet 4:14 “¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” **ESV**

James 1:1-4 “²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” **ESV**

Maybe suffering is a blessing we should learn to relish.

Fifth and final aspect, love. V8-9 “⁸You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.” **Jesus’ resurrection**

gives us the assurance that the promise of eternal life is a settled matter for all who believe. I think the waiter matter for disciples to

consider every Easter is do we truly love him like Peter describes here.

Do we find complete satisfaction in Jesus. Do we love him more than life itself? Is this love rooted in what he has done for us on Calvary’s rugged cross, not what we think he will or can do for us now? What is the evidence of this love in our lives? I leave us with these questions to ponder over the coming weeks as we now make our way to Pentecost Sunday. Christ is risen. He is no longer in the grave,

and this fact has changed what's possible for humanity. It has changed everything for us who believe. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**