

Theme: The resurrection of Jesus gives a living hope for troubled times for all those who are reborn through Him.

I. Intro – How Is Easter Relevant?

- A. Interview with Lea Hurt about Easter service
- B. An enjoyable interview for Annapolis Patch
- C. Asked a question many might think
- D. How do we relate Easter message to current troubles?
- E. Economy, political unrest, Japan tsunami/nuclear
- F. Serious illness, death
- G. Is Easter really relevant in these troubled times?

II. Living In Troubled Times

- A. These Christians lived in troubled times
 - 1. 1:6 - suffer grief in all kinds of trials
 - 2. 2:18-19 - pain of unjust sufferings (slaves)
 - 3. 4:12-14 - painful trial suffering; suffering of Christ; insulted
 - 4. 4:16 - suffer as a Christian - persecution
 - 5. 4:19 - suffer according to God's will
- B. Suffering - a central theme in this letter
 - 1. Two key words for suffering in 1 Peter
 - a. λυπέω - lupeo - 2 times
 - b. πάσχω - pascho - 17 times in 105 verses
 - c. Most in NT in one book; average frequency

d. πάσχω - pascho - every 6 verses!

- 2. In 1 Peter the suffering is really unjust punishment
- 3. If anybody understood difficult times - they did!

III. A Living Hope for Troubled Times

- A. Yet Peter begins the letter with hope!
 - 1. 1:3 - We have a living hope!
 - 2. A theme that is discussed 5x in this letter
- B. The basis for our hope - the resurrection of Jesus
 - 1. 1:3 - living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
 - 2. 1:21 - faith and hope in God who raised Jesus
 - 3. If Christ conquered death - no problem too great!
 - 4. This gives encouragement!
- C. The outcome of our hope - salvation
 - 1. It does not necessarily change our troubles (vv6-7)
 - 2. We will receive inheritance & salvation (v3-4; 8-9)
 - 3. This is a cause for hope and joy!!!
 - 4. Christ has come! Christ has conquered! We are saved!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. For unbelievers - look to Christ - He is your only hope
 - 1. This is all true only for those born again (v3)
 - a. This hope only for those who embrace Christ in faith

b. For others it offers no hope

2. Look to Him in faith today!

a. He has lived in total righteousness for you

b. He died an atoning death - for you

c. He has been raised - for you

d. Come to Him and receive hope!

B. For believers - live in the hope offered

1. Don't view the Gospel through your problems

2. View your problems through the Gospel

3. He has taken your place - and given your life!

4. He is raised - death is conquered!

5. Nothing can separate you from Him!

6. Rejoice and live in hope!

Living Hope Through the Resurrection of Jesus

1 Peter 1:3-9

Matthew 28:1-10

April 24, 2011

A Resurrection Song

Hebrews 13:20-21

18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if a man bears up under **the pain of unjust suffering** because he is conscious of God. 1 Peter 2:18–19

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised **at the painful trial you are suffering**, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that **you participate in the sufferings of Christ**, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are **insulted because of the name of Christ**, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:12–14

16 However, **if you suffer as a Christian**, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:16

19 So then, **those who suffer according to God's will** should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19

21 Through him you believe in God, **who raised him from the dead** and glorified him, and so your faith and **hope** are in God. 1 Peter 1:21