

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

I. Intro - Easter in Troubled Times

- A. Easter is the central celebration for Christians
- B. A time of hope and joy - but during a pandemic?
- C. Is Easter relevant in times of suffering and death?
- D. 1 Peter 1:3-9 - A text of a joyous, living, hope

II. Living In Troubled Times

- A. The people Peter wrote to were suffering - our text

In this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** 1 Peter 1:6

- 1. These people are suffering grief in all kinds of trials
- 2. Peter acknowledges this right up front
- 3. Whatever Peter will say, it must apply to suffering

- B. Suffering is a key theme in this letter

- 1. Peter speaks about suffering a lot in this letter!
 - a. Words related to suffering occur 19x in the letter
 - b. 19x in only 105 verses - a constant theme!
 - c. πάσχω - highest occurrence in an NT writing!
 - d. Other than pronouns and articles (a, an, the), or prepositions, only "God" and "Christ" appear more in this letter than πάσχω - suffer
 - e. Suffering is clearly a major theme of this letter. It was not written to people enjoying times of peace and prosperity, but rather to those who were living through a period of suffering.

- 2. A quick look at "suffering in 1 Peter

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to **suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** 1 Peter 1:6

- a. They are suffering and having grief
- b. These are related to trials they are going through

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of **unjust suffering** because he is conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you **suffer for doing good** and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 1 Peter 2:19–20

- a. Unjust suffering; suffering for doing good
- b. In many ways, this is the worst kind of suffering!

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

- a. Painful trial, suffering of Christ, insulted for Christ's name
- b. This suffering is because of persecution
- c. Many Christians suffer persecution today - and this is a painful form of suffering.

- C. The Christians to whom Peter wrote this letter were enduring a period of unjust suffering, and his words were meant to help them survive and even thrive during their time of suffering.

III. A Joyous Living Hope

A. Peter says they have hope

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3

1. Peter says they were born again into hope
2. Despite all of the suffering, they are people of hope!
3. This is the first of 5 mentions of hope in the letter
4. This hope is not based on their circumstances but on God, His faithfulness, and His work, especially in the resurrection of Jesus

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

- a. This is why they can have hope even in the midst of suffering - their hope is in God, not circumstances
- b. Note the specific link with the resurrection of Jesus - we will come back to this.

B. Peter says they have joy

In this **you greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials...
⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and **are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy**, 1 Peter 1:6, 8

1. Peter says they 'greatly rejoice' and are 'filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy' - even in the midst of their suffering and trials

2. Their hope is a joyful hope - not just a wishing for the future while they pine away in the present.
3. Their joy is not small - it is great, it fills them, and it is glorious!
4. Like their hope, their joy is not controlled by circumstances because it is rooted in God, His character, and His work.

C. Their joyous hope is living because it is founded on the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into **a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, 1 Peter 1:3

1. Theirs is not false dead hope, but true living hope
2. This is because their hope is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
3. Peter makes the same point later in the letter
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
 - a. Our hope is alive because it is based on God, not ourselves, our abilities, or the circumstances in which we find ourselves
 - b. Our hope is specifically based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

IV. The Resurrection - Basis for Joyous Hope

- #### A. The Resurrection shows the greatest enemy - death - has been defeated

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through **the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead** 1 Peter 1:3

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

1. This is not a metaphorical resurrection - it is the physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
2. The NT never speaks of a metaphorical resurrection of Jesus or one that only happened 'spiritually'. It always speaks of His being raised literally, physically.
3. This means that the greatest enemy, death, has been defeated.
4. Whatever other problems or suffering we face pales in comparison to the problem and suffering of death.
5. Any hope that does not deliver from death is a limited hope at best and is often a false, dead hope.

B. Jesus' resurrection guarantees our resurrection and eternal inheritance

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,** ⁴ **and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade** — kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power **until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.** 1 Peter 1:3–5

1. Jesus' resurrection guarantees our future inheritance

2. Because He has conquered death, we will one day conquer death!
3. His resurrection guarantees that we have an eternal inheritance, one that will never pass away or lose value.
4. This is why Jesus' resurrection is a firm foundation for a joyous living hope - we too will be raised, glorified, and given an incomprehensible, eternal inheritance!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the ultimate enemy and cause for despair is death?
1. Our culture is expert at trying to avoid this fact!
 2. We become desensitized as we watch it on the screen
 3. Then we try to act as if it will not come for us
 4. We try to look and act perpetually young
 5. This virus has snapped us back to reality - death could come at any moment for any one of us
 6. Any 'hope' must grapple with the reality of death
 7. Do I try to ignore death, or do I face it squarely?
 8. Do I live in recognition of my own death?
- B. Have you been born again into a joyous living hope?
1. Peter says this hope comes from being born again
 2. The only way to have true hope (not just a fantasy) is through being born again through Jesus Christ

3. Christ has conquered death so we might live!
4. Have you looked to Christ in faith?
5. Have you let His death be your death, and His resurrection guarantee your resurrection?
6. Do you believe the Good News of Christ's resurrection from the dead?

C. Christians - are you living in joyful hope?

1. This is not something the Christian is to strive for - it is inherent to being born again
2. This is not something dependent upon circumstances - it is only dependent upon God
3. Hope is our birthright, and we can only live in despair if we are setting our sights on circumstances rather than God and His promises
4. We have a joyous living hope because Christ is Risen!
5. We face even the prospect of our own death with hope because Christ is Risen indeed!
6. April 8, 1945 - Bonhoeffer - This is the end. For me the beginning of life.
7. Rejoice with living hope - He is Risen!

D. Response: In Christ Alone

Teaching keywords: Easter; resurrection; hope; joy; suffering

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.⁷ These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:3–9

The Resurrection of A Joyous Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-9
 April 12, 2020
 In Christ Alone
 Hebrews 13:20-21