**“Living in Hope”**

1 Peter 1:1-9 and Luke 24:1-12

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 4/4/21)

 Every day we take a few steps closer to a resurrected body with our risen Christ… and then, one day, we shall be with Him FOREVER! All of our hope is attached to Christ’s resurrection. When the world says “hope”, it’s a hope in something that may happen someday. Our hope is an ongoing confidence in God’s promised future. We are not meant to live in fear and insecurity. Our hope is the natural habitat of the children of God. Do you know this living hope?

 The New Testament makes it very clear that Christ’s resurrection has eternal consequences. His resurrection affirms that we will never have to pay for our sins (that’s justification.) His resurrection is His and our victory over death and the grave. What is the **CAUSE** of our hope? Take a look at verse 3. Our new birth was brought about by God for His people. God has abundant mercy toward us: He does for us that which we cannot do for ourselves. It is not a pep rally hope, or a manufactured hope. It is not a “power of positive thinking” hope. It is a confident hope of a glorious future because of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. Verse 2 tells of a “sanctification of the Spirit”. This is ongoing help to live rightly in obedience, saved by the blood of Christ. (Q1) Salvation is the work of God for His people. Let’s be clear: it is not the work of man. Have you surrendered to the glorious love of the Messiah who loves you? On the basis of faith, this God-given hope is yours! Hope that is anchored in yourself vacillates up and down. Real hope is not based on feelings or circumstances. Real hope is grounded in our standing as children of God.

 Now let’s look at hope’s **CONTENT**. This hope is assured of an eternal heavenly inheritance. God’s people are constantly reminded in the New Testament of our living hope (see Rom. 8:18-21). When we’re in Heaven we won’t for a single moment grow tired or lack the energy to do the will of God. Loneliness will no longer exist. This eternal inheritance is incorruptible and undefiled and will not fade away.

 Our living hope is full of **CONFIDENCE**. Our eternal life cannot be lost; God keeps His people and their inheritance secure. He says, “You’re mine and I’ll keep you as mine forever.” There is no joy today if there is no hope for tomorrow. To be with Christ is to have hope. (Q2)

 Hope also has a **CALLING.** This hope gives us a God-centered life of joy and stability and strength, despite great difficulties. (Q3) This hope has a purpose: “Always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you.” (1Peter 3:15). (Q4) Because this is a living hope, it grows and matures. The trials that we go through perfect us, strengthening our faith while they refine us.

 Finally, this hope has a **CULMINATION**: the salvation of our souls. This is the finish line! This is eternal life with Christ, being perfect as He is perfect, united with all His people, enjoying His perfect creation forever. As a fish is born to live in water, a Christian is born to live in hope. Do you live in this hope? (Q5)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us live rightly?
2. How is your hope secure? Do you have any Bible verses to back this up?
3. How does your hope influence your outlook toward difficulties in life?
4. How is your hope noticed by others? What should be your reaction when it is noticed?
5. In what ways is a Christian’s hope living?

“Low in the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose)” (Robert Lowry)

 Low in the grave He lay—

 Jesus my Savior!

Waiting the coming day—

 Jesus my Lord!

Chorus:

 Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o’er His foes

He arose a Victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! He arose!

 Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2

 Vainly they watch His bed—

 Jesus, my Savior!

Vainly they seal the dead—

 Jesus my Lord!

3

 Death cannot keep his prey—

 Jesus, my Savior!

He tore the bars away—

 Jesus my Lord!