

Hope in the Resurrection  
3-27-2016

*John 20:1-18*

*20 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.*

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

I know this intellectually but is it a life-changing, hope giving, heart belief?

Everyone needs hope today: there are health issues, marital strife, financial worries, political uncertainty, economy, Isis.

- Our world is desperate for real hope, not wishful positive thinking.
- Living hope can be found in the historical event we celebrate today.

Everything in the Christian faith rests on the marvelous fact in history, not a feeling: Resurrection. Rom 5:8-10, 1 Cor 15:17-22

- Jesus Christ's death purchased the Christian's acquittal, justification, and forgiveness.
  - There is no saving significance to his death if he did not rise.

- If there was no resurrection, we would have the death of martyr, a victim of injustice, or a good ordinary man with no saving value.....not a Savior/God in flesh.
- The empty tomb was indisputable then & now
  - The resurrection is an undeniable proof that Jesus is the Messiah, Savior & Judge.
- The resurrection assures that a Christian has: a new relationship with God, a present & future life that is to be envied. Jn 11:25-27, 1 Pet 1:3-6, 2 Pet 1:3-4, Rev 21:3-4

Yet many Christians choose to live in the dark, hopeless, difficult, confusing time between cross & the resurrection.

• Like the disciples/Mary, "Is what I believed about Jesus true?" Jn 20:11-15  
 Mary Magdalene had no expectation of a resurrection, nobody did.

- They expected to find Jesus' corpse. Wept: thought the grave was robbed & evil men had triumphed over God's sovereign purposes.
  - We often suffer needless sorrow because forget God's sovereign & evil men can't do anything to thwart His eternal purpose. Acts 4:27-30, Rom 13:1
- Mary was frustrated, and feeling hopeless because she was seeking a dead Lord not omnipotent, sovereign, living Lord.
  - Her faith was weak, her eyes blind, but Jesus chose socially insignificant, a previously demon-possessed woman to be the first to witness of His resurrection! Mk 16:9, Jn 10:27-29, Jn 20:16-17
- The fact of Christ's bodily resurrection produced a life-changing hope in Mary.
  - Jesus Christ /angels question not to gain information but to get Mary to process her sorrow in light of resurrection.

Jesus is asking you same ? : "Why are you weeping and worried? The tomb is empty. I have risen."

• Because Jesus won the victory over death our attitude can change from despair to hope even in midst of trials and a world chaos. WWII story  
 It is important to live with faith, hope, & joy to be a testimony to the truth of the resurrection. Jn 10:10, Hab 3:17-19, Mt 5:14-16

- Facts can remove intellectual barriers: There are weak arguments, and foolish theories
  - Greatest modern day evidence is changed lives that are lived w/ faith, hope/joy in loving, saving, living Creator .
    - Glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel with words & by living with the hope secured & found in the resurrection.