

HOPE for those WITHOUT Hope ~ 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

→ Scripture Reading 1 Cor 15:3-4, 17-20

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NLT) I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ DIED for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was BURIED, and he was RAISED from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

The HEART of the Gospel

- Christ Jesus DIED for our SINS - Is 53:4-10
- He was BURIED and RAISED to Life on the third day - Ps. 16:10, Hos. 6:2

ARRESTED in the Garden ~ Mark 14:43-50

⁴³ Just as He was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders... ⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested Him... ⁴⁸ Am I leading a rebellion... ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled. ⁵⁰ Then everyone DESERTED Him and fled.

Peter's DENIALS and Bitterness ~ Luke 22:54-62

Luke 22:34 (NIV) ...Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will DENY three times that you know Me.

Luke 22:54-62 (NIV) Then seizing Him, they led Him away and took Him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them... ⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and LOOKED straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and WEPT BITTERLY.

FAITHFUL Women who CARED for Jesus's Needs ~ Mark 15:40-41

Mark 15:40-41 (NIV) Some women were WATCHING from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and CARED for His needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

Luke 23:44-49 (NIV) It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour... ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, He breathed His last. ⁴⁷ The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man... ⁴⁹ But all those who knew Him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

1 Corinthians 15:17-19 (NLT) And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, ALL who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our HOPE in Christ is ONLY for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

Joseph and Nicodemus put Jesus in a TOMB ~ John 19:38-42

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (NIV)

IMPLICATION

¹⁷ And if Christ has NOT been raised, then your faith is USELESS and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, ALL who have died believing in Christ are LOST! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is ONLY for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. (NLT)

IF Christ was Not Raised then

- your Faith is FUTILE
- you are still DEAD in your sins
- those who have died are DEAD and GONE
- you are absolute FOOLS for Believing a LIE

Deep DISTRESS at the Tomb ~ John 20:1-16

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb... ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head... ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He SAW and believed... ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb CRYING... ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ "Woman," He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!"

FULL of FEAR in the Upper Room ~ John 20:19-21

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews... ..Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you! ²⁰ After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (NIV)

IMPLICATION

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. (NLT)

IF in fact Christ has NOT been raised, then His death did NOT pay for sin, and there is NO hope for life with God in heaven. ESVN

²⁰ but in FACT, Christ has been RAISED from the DEAD. He is the FIRST of a great harvest of all who have died.

The Resurrection was God's VALIDATION that the Redemption PRICE PAID by Christ on the cross was accepted. BKC

Romans 4:25 (NIV) He was delivered over to DEATH for our sins and was RAISED to life for our Justification.

TAKE AWAY ??

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses...

His compassion for us is based on hard-earned human experience: He has been tempted in every way, just as we are. DA Carson

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV) ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow WEARY and lose heart.