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Our Hope is based on the Ressurrection of Christ



Two disciples were returning from Jerusalem with their heads hung low and sadly making their way home to Emmaus. As they discribed with disbelief how their Master, Jesus was crucified, they were confused as they lost hope in their Messiah, thinking His death is the end of their faith.

A stranger joined them on their journey and asked what they were discussing. When night fell, they invited their companion to a meal before they part ways.

Luke 24:32 tells us that these two *finally recognised Jesus and "said one to another, "Weren't our hearts burning within us, while he spoke to us along the way, and while he opened the Scriptures to us?"*

Instead of continuing on their journey to Emmaus, Luke 24:33-35 tells us that *"they rose up that very hour, returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and those who were with them... They related the things that happened along the way, and how he was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread."*

What a difference the ressurection of Jesus made! Instead of returning home and abandoning all hope, they returned to Jerusalem to join the remaining disciples!

As we read the New Testament, Jesus died but rose on the third day. For 50 days, the Bible records the appearances of Jesus until he was taken to heaven in the presence of His apostles.

Because all the apostles were eye witnesses to the ressurection of Jesus, they preached the

gospel boldly and fearlessly. If we know for certain that Jesus rose from the dead, why should any of us be afraid to die?

Most assuredly, we say with Hebrews 13:6, *"so that with good courage we say, "The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

Our hope is based on the ressurection of Christ. Here is how the apostle puts it in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19:

"Now if Christ is preached, that he has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither has Christ been raised.

"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain. Yes, we are found false witnesses of God, because we testified about God that he raised up Christ, whom he didn't raise up, if it is so that the dead are not raised.

"For if the dead aren't raised, neither has Christ been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then they also who are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable."



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