

2. How do you get this hope into you?

When Jesus is talking to Nicodemus and he says, "You must be born again," Basically, what this means is to be physically resurrected you must be spiritually resurrected now. That's what the new birth is.

1 Peter 1:3 says, "We are born again into hope."

-----You have to believe the gospel.

And to believe the gospel, you have to see you're a sinner and you can only be saved by God's grace through Christ-----That is the Gospel.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

In the past you were spiritually dead because of your disobedience and sins.

Ephesians 2:1

-----See what Jesus did for you .

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him,...

Isaiah 53:5

"He was cut off from the land of the living ..."

Isaiah 53:8

Jesus said "I have come to save the world and not to judge it." John 12:47

James (Jesus ½ brother) says: "Mercy triumphs over judgment." James 2:13

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life! Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live again!"

John 11:25

I'm betting my life that Jesus Christ is not a liar, are you?

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13



Sierra Community Church
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What Are You Betting Your Life On?

The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 28 Verses 1-10

"Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake when an angel moved the giant stone away from the opening of the tomb and then sat on the stone! The angel's face shone like lightning, and his clothes were brilliant white. When the Roman guards saw this happen, they shook with fear and fainted! "Don't be afraid! I know you're looking for Jesus, who was crucified. But HE ISN'T HERE!! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen! So, come and see for yourselves, that there's nobody in this tomb! Now, go quickly and tell his followers that Jesus has raised from the dead, that he's headed to Galilee, and that he will see all of you there! So the women ran quickly from the tomb. They were scared, but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the angel's message to the disciples. But as they were going, they ran into Jesus! "Good Morning!" said Jesus. The women came close to him, and they touched his body and they worshiped him! Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

Jesus didn't just appear on Easter Sunday morning-

After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of **forty days**. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts of the Apostles Chapter1 verse3

There's no greater example of preaching the resurrection as a fact, then the Apostle Paul-

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.⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.⁹ For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. I Corinthians 15:3-9

Historians tell us it is astounding that Christianity got off the ground with first-century Jews-

Reason 1- They were last people in the whole world to believe a human being could be God.

Reason 2- They didn't believe that any resurrection would take place until the end of mankind.

1. Why is Resurrection important?

Because it proved that Jesus Christ was telling the truth.

Jesus claimed to be the eternal Son of God.

Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."⁶⁴ Jesus replied, "You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, "Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy."⁶⁶ What is your verdict?" "Guilty!" they shouted. "He deserves to die!"

Matthew 26:63-65

He claimed to be the only way to heaven.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Jesus said, I'm going to let them put me to death,

¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded." John 10:18

"Now My soul is troubled and distressed. And what shall I say? Father save Me from this hour of trial and agony? But it was for this very purpose that I have come to this hour." John 12:27

Jesus said, I'm going to die but three days later I'm going to raise myself back to life.

Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. Mark 8:31

Paul wrote that Jesus died for the sins of the world

"When we were utterly helpless Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners." Romans 5:6

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:8

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Where is your hope, only for the things of this life?

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ are lost. *"If we as Christians have a hope only for this life, we are of all people most miserable."*

1 Corinthians 15:17,18