

HOPE For A Better Life

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Easter Sunday will be celebrated today by an estimated 30+ billion people worldwide. Why do we celebrate Easter? *Because God took the worst possible situation – the death of His son – turned it around, used it for good and changed the world.* Easter changed history. Every time you look at your calendar, the focal point is Jesus Christ. Time is marked “before Christ” (B.C.) and “after his death” (A.D.) Easter is the most important event in history. Easter is not historical, but it is relevant today because what happened at Easter is still transforming millions of lives today.

Jesus Christ did not come for religious people. He could care less about religion. He was only interested in people having a relationship with God not a bunch of rules, regulations and rituals. Jesus said it like this:

Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I’m here inviting outsiders, not insiders—an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out. (Luke 5:32) The Message

The night before Jesus Christ was crucified He made a very strange statement that nobody who heard it understood.

In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you’re going to see me because I am alive and you’re about to come alive. (John 14:19) The Message

What in the world did He mean? They’re thinking, “We’re already alive. What does He mean when He says, you’re about to come alive. Almost everybody knows that part of the Easter story when Jesus is crucified and is resurrected, but what most don’t know is the second part of

the story. The part that involves you.

He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. (2 Corinthians 5:15) The Message

What is this Hope for a better life?

When you think about it the “good life” is it really that good? I’ve discovered that beneath this image of “The Good Life” are three dirty little secrets that nobody likes to talk about.

Three dirty little secrets about the good life:

1. People feel *exhausted*

They say, “I’m tired all the time. I can’t keep up this pace. I’m overloaded

2. People feel *empty*

“I don’t think I’ve got another thing in me. I’m stretched to the limit. If life is so good then why do I feel so empty?”

3. People feel *enslaved*

“I feel trapped in a relationship. I feel trapped in debt. I feel trapped by my past and my guilt. I feel trapped by fear. By the expectations of other people around me. I feel trapped by my schedule.” No direction. No purpose.

Do you ever feel like any of these? Emptiness? Exhaustion? Feeling trapped? I’ve got good news for you today, there’s an antidote, it’s called the “better life.” The reason God brought you here today is so you can learn about *The Hope for a better life.* And as the writer said, “you’re about to come alive.”

What is this “better life” that Jesus offers? It consists of the three basics of life!

This HOPE of a better life” is:

1. **Filled with meaning!**

Christ gives meaning to your life... (Colossians 3:4a) CEV

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven — and the future starts now! (1 Peter 1:3, 4) The Message

The HOPE for a better life is filled with meaning because we are:

2. **Freed by grace!**

...We’re free to live a new life in the freedom of God. (Romans 7:6b) The Message

What is grace? Grace is when God gives you what you need, not what you deserve. That’s grace. Everything you have in your life is because of God’s grace. The next breath you take – that’s a gift of grace. If God didn’t want you to take it, your heart would have stopped a long time ago. Your whole life you owe to the grace of God. You have nothing if God hadn’t decided to make you. So grace is saying, I love you. I forgive you even though you can’t earn it. Grace is saying, I’m not mad at you. I’m not holding a grudge because Jesus Christ has taken your sin on the cross. Grace is God saying, I’m going to give you a second chance and a third and fifth and a twenty-fifth and a hundred and twenty-fifth. Grace is the road to “the hope of a better life.” *Jesus death and resurrection is a gift of grace to you and me!*

We are free from:

Guilt

All the things you feel guilty about, He wipes them out. He gives you that mulligan.

