

4/16/17 | EASTER

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of

Jesus Christ from the dead."

—1 Peter 1:3 | NIV



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Has anyone ever told you they thought you were weird? Has anyone asked you why you are different? What did you tell them?
2. How does believing in a Risen Savior make you different? Do your actions and attitude show it? Can someone believe that Jesus rose from the dead and still be the same as they were before?
3. Would Christianity be different if we were to claim that Jesus stayed dead? If so, how?
4. Consider the quote on the right. Is Timothy Keller overstating the importance of Jesus Christ's Resurrection? If not, why not?

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."
—Timothy Keller

SO WHAT?

5. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. What's the big deal? What does that change for you and me?
6. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, how does Paul describe the rest of mankind? How does Jesus's Resurrection affect believers?

7. 1 Corinthians 15:14 says, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Strong words! Why would Paul claim our faith is useless if Christ didn't rise from the dead?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-22. Why would Christians be pitied if we hoped only for this life? Do we expect a Christian life on earth to look pitiful? What is our hope actually in?

HOPE IN WHAT?

9. Read 1 Timothy 6:17. Why is the object of our hope so important?
10. In Ephesians 1:18, what did God call us to? How is that encouraging to you today?
11. Read Romans 8:24. What hope is Paul referencing? What does this have to do with the Resurrection of Jesus?

HOPE FOR WHAT?

12. In 1 Peter 3:15, why should you be prepared? What do believers have that nonbelievers ask about? Do you see this in your life?
13. How do you remain hopeful in a world full of darkness? Does the cross and empty tomb factor into your hope?

*"The tomb of Christ is famous because of what it DOES NOT CONTAIN."
—Sam Morris*

TAKE AWAY: What does the empty tomb mean for your life?