

# The Living Hope

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Peter 1:3.

B. I Peter captures the glory of Easter.

## II. The resurrection of Jesus is designed to help us in our difficult moments.

A. If Jesus is not able to meet our needs, as He was those in the first century, then Christianity is a fraud.

B. Near-death experiences are questionable because death is the total absence of bodily function. These experiences leave us with a very subjective hope.

C. The Christian hope is not subjective.

1. Believers are given the assurance that they will not be alone in the hour of death.

2. We need have no fear about death—there is no ground for fear.

3. Beyond this life is the promise of greater functioning than we have ever known on earth.

a. The resurrection of Jesus was different from other resurrections.

b. He would not die again, and He came back with a different glorified body.

D. The promises of the resurrection can be applied to every area of life.

1. Jesus brings peace in the present.

2. When Christ is in one's heart, a person has the power to do things he never thought he could.

3. Christ is alive—He is ready to meet us in the problem of death, but also in the dilemmas of life.

## Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that the Christian hope is only future?

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2. Which of the Christian hopes gives you the most encouragement now? Explain.

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3. How can the Christian hope be applied to every area of life? Give an example from your own life.

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