

COLLECTIVE

May 29, 2022

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is **the foundation** of the Christian faith. Without it, the belief in God's saving grace through Jesus is destroyed. When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity as the Son of God and his work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation.

The resurrection is very often viewed as **just a wonderful miracle** that proves Jesus was the Son of God and nothing more than that. We don't see it as something that affects how we live our daily life **NOW**.

One of the reasons for the rise of Christianity in the earliest centuries was that it offered hope in the face of many urban pandemics in the ancient Roman world.

How did Christianity offer them hope?

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3

1 Peter 1:21

We often focus a lot on the Cross, but it is **the Cross and the Resurrection together that brings the future into our present**.

With the resurrection, this renewing power from the future is here NOW in our present world. This means that not only do we have a hope for the future, **but we have a hope that comes from the future**.

The kingdom of God is "**already**" with us, yet at the same time "**not yet**" with us. It is **not yet** here fully, yet **already** here substantially.

How does all this apply to our lives practically?

If we keep focusing on the “**already**”, we will always be expecting quick solutions to all our problems and we will be upset and discouraged when things don’t go right or according to our plans.

On the other hand, if we keep focusing on the “**not yet**”, we will become very pessimistic about change. We can withdraw from engaging the world, and become too afraid of being “polluted” by it.

What does this mean for all of us?

In human relationships:

- “already” – ultimate love and sacrifice by dying on the Cross for our sins.
- “not yet” – there will still be selfishness and self-centredness

In life:

- “already” – every good and perfect gift from above.
- “not yet” – we might not achieve everything we want and receive everything we desire to have.

In knowledge and truth:

- “already” – the truth has shown us the way through the Word of God.
- “not yet” – we won’t be able to understand and know everything fully at the moment.

In personal change and growth:

- “already”- Holy Spirit has already come into us. This means that we have more confidence that our fallen nature such as our bad habits and flaws can be changed and overcome.
- “not yet” – our fallen nature remains in us and will never be fully eliminated until the fullness of the kingdom arrives.

In church change and growth:

- “already” – God can bring revival and transformation through the local church.
- “not yet” – the church will never be error-free, mistake-free, and evil-free.

In social change:

- “already” – we can expect to use God’s power to change social conditions and communities.
- “not yet” – there will still be poverty, inequality, selfishness, cruelty, and oppression in the world we live in.