

“The Hope of Easter”

Mark 15:33-47

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

April 12, 2009

This Easter we can have hope because...

1. Sinful people can draw near to a Holy God. (Mark 15:38, Hebrews 10:19-22)

“So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into ‘the Holy Place.’ Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body. So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out.”

Hebrews 10:19-22 (The Message)

“We stand before God unafraid, not because we’re acceptable to him, but because his justice has been satisfied by the death of Jesus. So, God is to us both the One who’s just and the One who justifies! He can forgive my rebellion and sin without compromising the purity of his justice in any way.

I don’t have to manipulate God’s view of me.
I don’t have to run from him in fear.
I don’t have to rationalize away my wrongs.
I don’t have to work to shift the blame to someone else.
I don’t have to put forward false pretenses.
I don’t have to marshal arguments for my acceptability.
I don’t have to try to buy my way into his favor.

No, I can be who I am and what I am and stand in the light of his righteousness without fear, because Jesus has taken my sin and suffered my stripes. So the One who is my Judge is also my Justifier. There is rest. There is **hope**.”

Paul David Tripp *Whiter Than Snow*, Crossway Books,
Wheaton, Illinois, 2008, p. 117

2. **Christ pursues us in the midst of our hopelessness. (Luke 24:15)**

3. **Suffering precedes glory. (Luke 24:25-27)**

“We on earth exist in a state of contradiction between the cross and the resurrection. Surrounded by decay, we nonetheless **hope** for perfection, for a restoration of the cosmos. We have no proof that it can ever be attained, only a sign in history, the “foreglow” of the raising of Christ from the dead. Yet if we can sustain faith in that glorious future, it can transform the present...” Jurgen Moltmann a WWII concentration camp survivor from *Experiences of God*.

Phillip Yancey, *Reaching for the Invisible God*, Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000, p. 78.

“A ‘foreglow’ of resurrection surely does not dispel the shadows, but it does bathe them in the new light of **hope**.”

Phillip Yancey, *Reaching for the Invisible God*, Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2000, p. 80.

“The hardest part of being an atheist is that I have to live my life without **hope**.”

Aurora

Response:

1. I’m thankful I can draw near to God. Pray that I would take advantage of that opportunity.
2. Christ is pursuing me, and my heart’s desire is to surrender to Him.
3. This season of my life has significant suffering. Pray for the hope and strength to press on toward the eternal glory.
4. I have questions about Christ and would like to be part of the elective “What Difference Does Jesus Make?”
5. I would like a pastor to follow-up with me.