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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Corinthians 15:19**  
**Lesson #26**  
**Easter's hope**  
**04/09/2023**

## Easter / Social Justice Hope / Expectations

**Security and Peace**  
*"a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"*

**Suffering with Patience**  
*"It's Friday but Sunday's coming."*

**Signs of Power**  
*"When I am weak, then I am strong."*

1

**1. Easter's hope affirms human dignity.**

**Christmas**

They both underscore the love of God

**Incarnation**

God became one with us



and

**Easter?**

for those who bear His Image.

**Indwelling**

so that we could be one with Him.

2

**2. Easter's hope is at the core of the Christian Gospel's uniqueness.**

*1 Corinthians 15*

*"3 For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,"*

3

**The emphasis of the Gospels**

*The Passion and Resurrection*

Matthew	
Mark	
Luke	
John	

4

**The emphasis of the Epistles**

*Jesus' 3 year ministry is largely ignored*

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

**The Passion & Resurrection get nearly all the attention**

**Epistles**

5

Jesus' calling and purpose were centered on his **passion and resurrection**, as the basis of social hope and message.

*John 2:4,19*

**"My hour has not yet come."**

"Destroy this temple (**his body**), and in three days I will raise it up."

Old Testament - Gospels



**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

6

Paul understood his Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day**.

*Ephesians 3:3-5*

"that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery,...which **in other generations was not made known to the sons of men**, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;"

Old Testament - Gospels



**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

7

**3. Easter's hope introduces a New kind of motivation and power.**

The Cross set the stage for it.

**Easter**

Pentecost bore the fruit of it.

The Old Covenant would end.

A New Covenant would begin.

The nation Israel



The Body of Christ

Crucifixion

Pentecost

I  
II  
III  
IV  
V

VI  
VII  
VIII  
IX  
X

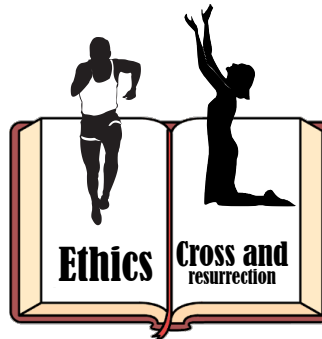
Old Testament - Gospels

Acts - Epistles

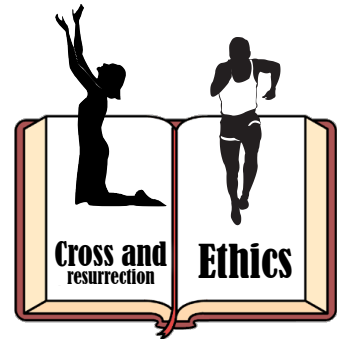
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Old Covenant order

New Covenant order



Moses & Jesus



Apostles

9

Old Covenant

Before the Christ event was

1. Law oriented
2. This life focused

**HOPE  
ETHICS  
PROMISES**



New Covenant

After the Christ event was

1. Spirit oriented
2. The afterlife focused



I  
II  
III  
IV  
V

VI  
VII  
VIII  
IX  
X

10

Satan doesn't want to take away our faith, hope, and love.

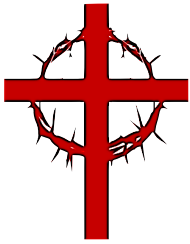
He just wants to control the **subject & object**

of our faith, hope and love.

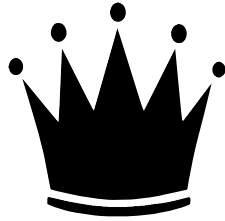


11

*In this life we are to pick up our cross and follow his example.*



**Now**



**Later**

12

## The Gospel is

Pre Christ (Old Testament)

*the Good News of the promised hope of God's blessing through the seed of Abraham & the Law of Moses*

Pre Easter (Jesus)

*revealed in the person of Jesus Christ*

Post Easter (Paul)

*through the Cross and Resurrection for both Jew and Gentile.*

**One Gospel**

**Distinct Emphasis**

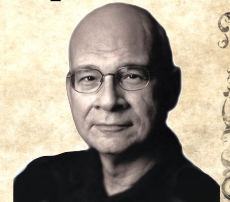
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1 Corinthians 15:19

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

14

“Though Christianity does not provide the reason for each experience of pain, it provides deep resources for actually facing suffering with hope and courage rather than bitterness and despair.”



Tim Keller

15

**3. Easter's hope frees us to respond to life's ups and downs with power.**

Both the “have-nots” and the “have-lots” can say “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”.

The “have-nots” are challenged to view social injustice is an opportunity to **demonstrate spiritual wealth & power.**



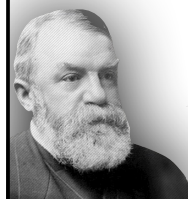
The “have-lots” are challenged to view worldly wealth & power as an opportunity to **demonstrate spiritual wealth & power.**

16

James 2:14

“What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, **but he has no works?**”

“A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine.”



Dwight L. Moody

17

4. Easter's hope frees us to **sacrifice** and suffer as we show **grace & love**.

James 2

"15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," **and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?** 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."

The WAY OF THE CROSS is a power response to life's circumstances.

It is the "salt", "light", "greater works", "fruit of the Spirit".



1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is a response to:

- patient
- kind
- not jealous
- does not brag
- is not arrogant
- does not act unbecomingly
- does not seek its own
- is not provoked
- does not take into account a wrong suffered
- does not rejoice in unrighteousness
- rejoices with the truth
- bears all things
- believes all things
- hopes all things
- endures all things
- trials
- insults
- success of others
- success of self
- power and authority
- freedom
- competition
- challenging confrontation
- injustice
- failure of others
- gossip and slander
- loss
- doubts
- discouragement
- delayed expectations

5. Easter's hope came through the Way of the Cross and inspired its continuation.

Turning mourning into dancing



1. Prodigal son.
2. Martha and Mary.
3. Paul's thorn in the flesh.
4. Joseph's captivity in Egypt.
5. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

7. Easter's hope makes us **Aliens in this world**.

Signs of friendship with the world

- Refuse to see ourselves as "aliens" in it.
- Expect God to **bless us** with it.
- Seek **painkillers** through it.
- Demand **justice** from it.
- Blame **others** for it.
- Be a **part** of it.



How does Easter shape Social Ethics?

1. It affirms the **dignity of humanity**, in bearing God's Spirit.
2. It **assures a hope**, the world cannot give or take away.
3. It frees & challenges us to **respond to life's injustices** with peace, patience, and power.
4. It gives **meaning to the suffering** of this life.
5. It encourages us to **sacrifice now for blessings later**.
6. It **clarifies the "tension"** between the O.C. and N.C.

A Berean's look at ...

