

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009

Hanging on to Hope

John 20:10-31

(p. 769 in chair Bible)

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

(John 20:31)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundational miracle upon which the Christian faith is built. It is an indisputable fact, an indispensable faith, and an irresistible force! Many people hung on the words of Jesus before He died. Our Lord's words *after* His resurrection further confirm how we can continue hanging on to hope in Him!

Let's consider the hopeful words of the Risen Savior this morning:

1) "Why are you crying?" (John 20:15)

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4, p. 878 in chair Bible)

2) "Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'" (John 20:16)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27, p. 760 in chair Bible)

3) "Go instead to my brothers" (John 20:17)

"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:35, p. 709 in chair Bible)

4) "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19)

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7, p. 832 in chair Bible)

5) "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10, p. 759 in chair Bible)

6) "Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)

"... to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...." (John 1:12, p. 750 in chair Bible)

7) "...blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

"We live by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7, p. 818 in chair Bible)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ provides the promise of hope like nothing else in the world can! Will you hang on to the Lord's words of hope this morning? Will you let the promises of the Risen Savior frame your very life?

Remember, Christ died to set you free from the burden of sin. He was buried and rose again to show you that He alone possesses the power to conquer sin and death once for all. Will you trust Him on this *Resurrection Morning*?

