**The Living Hope**

Easter 2022

INTRODUCTION

**Hope**:

Biblical hope is not a mere wish for something good to happen. It is a **confident** **expectation** and desire for something good in the future as God **promised**.

Q: But how do you know for sure?...

Q: How do you have this certain hope and faith in Jesus?

If the Bible **S**  it, then it **S**  it.

If the Bible is the **O**  foundation of your faith, as the Bible goes, so goes your **F** .

If the **E**  Bible is not true, then the Bible is not true **E** .

Q: Why did you lose your faith in Jesus and the Bible?

“Christianity does not exist because of the **B** , any more than you exist because of your **B**  **C** .

Your birth certificate **D**  something that happened.

The Bible documents something that **H** .” — Andy Stanley

Mark 16:1-8

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

“Nobody expected **N**  **B** “. – Andy Stanley

* When Jesus died, so did their hope.
* The movement of Christianity died, when Christ died.
* They all expected Jesus’ body to remain dead.

The disciples did not believe in Jesus because of the **B** .

They believed in Jesus because they saw him **R**  from the **D** .

* Jesus died around A.D 30
* The earliest letters of the New Testament were written in A.D. 50

The success and the explosion of Christianity happened not because people believed in the Bible but in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

The birth and explosion of Christianity **H**  because of the **R**  of Jesus Christ.

We do not **T**  the Bible **O**  because of the Bible.

We trust the Bible because of the **R** .

We believe Jesus **R**  from the **D**  because…

Matthew **T**  that he saw him **A .**

Mark **T**  that he saw him **A .**

John **T**  that he saw him **A .**

James **T**  that he saw him **A .**

The disciples **T**  that they saw him **A .**

Paul **T**  that he saw him **A .**

Over five hundred people **T**  that they saw him **A .**

Jesus **L**  you this you know, not only for the Bible tells you so…

But because He is **A .**

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Jesus is your **L**  **H** , not only for the Bible tells me so…

But because He is **A .**

Personal Application & Challenge: