

### **Recap of 3/31/24 message by Pastor Steve (1 Peter 1:3-5):**

*The resurrection of Jesus changed His disciples from dejected, defeated, and scared people into brave, bold, joyful witnesses for the Gospel of Christ. Peter tells us that Jesus' resurrection gives us that same "living hope."*

#### **The resurrection accomplished much:**

*In addition to bringing Jesus back to life, for death could not hold Him, the resurrection **1**) is the mechanism through which our spiritual rebirth is accomplished (1 Pt 1:3); **2**) proves Jesus is God the Son (Ro 1:1-4); **3**) defeats the power of sin and death (He 2:14-15, 1 Co 15:53-58, Ro 8:1-4); **4**) is proof that we are justified, that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf (Ro 4:22-25); and **5**) foreshadows our own resurrection (1 Co 15:20-23, Php 3:20-21).*

#### **Hope in God isn't wishful thinking, it's a sure thing:**

*We normally use the word hope to reflect our wishes for the future. However, when used regarding God in the bible, the word means absolute certainty. Our "living hope" is not something we would like to happen in the future, it is our absolute confidence that what God has said, He will accomplish. When we live in Christian hope, we give praise to God for what He has done in our past, excitedly join in what He is doing in our present, and joyfully look forward to our future with Him. Living in hope means no circumstances can quench our love, joy, faith, and peace.*

#### **We are God's children, protected by His power and purpose:**

*Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are reconciled to God (Col 1:21-22). We have been rescued from the domain of darkness and placed into the kingdom of light (Col 1:13). Therefore, we are co-heirs with Christ of that kingdom (Ro 8:17). Our inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading because we are protected by the power of God. Absolutely nothing can take us from Him (Ro 8:31-39). Wow, these truths should excite us in our Christian walk. As unbelievers see us living in the hope of Christ, they may ask us "why?" We then get the privilege of boldly, bravely, respectfully, and joyfully introduce them to Jesus. Yes, Jesus is alive! What a pleasure it is to live with Him.*