



05 April 2024

## We are Easter People

We looked forward to, prepared for and celebrated Easter. Easter Sunday overflowed with joy as we sang, prayed and focused on Easter truth from the Scriptures.

Now what?

Some people experience a let down, while others move on in the old and familiar routines, responsibilities and challenges. The eleven disciples did the latter following their first visits with Christ after His resurrection. Peter, who had been a fisherman, told the group, “I am going fishing” and the others replied, “We are going too” (John 21). They weren’t giving up on Jesus or their mission for Him. With Jesus not there at that point, and after all the lows and highs they had just been through, they fell back into the familiar.



Easter is the most important, crucial event—it is the resurrection of Jesus that provides certainty, joy and peace for every day and situation.

It has long and often been said that Christians are *Easter People*. While not a direct quote, this message came from Augustine’s comments on Psalm 148 which he wrote over 1700 years ago. Yes, we are *Easter People*.

The question is what does this mean? And then, how do we actually live as Easter People?

In the opening lines of his first letter the apostle Peter declares that God in

“His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

The apostle Paul tells us

“just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Easter People are those who by God’s grace are no longer spiritually dead, but alive; are new creations in Christ who now live and grow with the life and character of God.

You see, Easter People do not just have a joyful celebration once a once a year, but are transformed people living transformed lives. Easter People live transformed lives—not perfectly, but with growing consistency.

Question: Are you walking, living today in and by the newness of life you have in Christ?

Are you living by and growing in the character of Christ? Recall the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

Are you living out Jesus' command to be His witness?

Are you living out God's direction to love, care for, bear with, forgive and encourage your fellow believers?

Another question: Do you have a “living hope” today, a rock-solid certainty in Christ that directs how you face the ordinary and extraordinary, the good and bad, the joys and sorrows? Easter People do.

Psalm 148 opens with “Praise the LORD!” We get our word *hallelujah* from that phrase. Augustine wrote of Hallelujah being our song, the song of Easter People. May all we think and do today and every day be a praise song to God, our Hallelujah.

Pastor Lyle