

First Baptist Church of Wixom
April 5, 2026 (Easter Sunday)
“Lively Hope!”

I. Introduction

- a. 1 Peter was written to believers going through persecution
 - i. They were having a hard time being very excited about the future!
 - ii. And for good reason:
 1. The insane emperor Nero was on the throne
 2. This tyrant thought of himself as God
 3. And tolerated the worship of no one else
 4. Eventually, Paul and Peter would both become martyrs under this persecution
 5. But before they died, they both wrote encouraging words to Christians going through difficulty
 - a. Christians who needed encouragement
 - b. Christians who were lacking HOPE!
 - c. **1 Peter 5:12 “I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.”**
 - d. What was Peter saying?
 - i. God is good (grace)
 - ii. Don’t give up!
- b. What happened to Peter?
 - i. A disciple of opposite extremes
 1. Before the resurrection, he was kind of a failure as a disciple
 2. But after Jesus’ resurrection, he preached some of the most powerful messages proclaiming that Jesus was indeed God in the flesh!
 - a. After Jesus’ resurrection, he gladly gave his life in crucifixion himself
 - b. What happened to Peter?
 - c. The resurrection of Jesus happened to Peter!

II. Message

a. The resurrection gave Peter a Hope like nothing ever had

- i. “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
- ii. Are you discouraged (the recipients of Peter’s letter were)?
 1. There is hope for you IF you are in Christ
 2. Because Jesus handled the WORST-CASE SCENARIO!
 3. He conquered death!
 - a. Peter looks at the persecutions that they were going through
 - b. He looks at his own life and likely crucifixion
 - c. He looks at the difficulties of life
 - d. And then he looks at Jesus and concludes
 - e. It’s no problem!
 - f. He has begotten us again unto a lively hope
 4. We were as good as dead in our sins
 - a. Completely undeserving
 - b. Through Adam, we all became weak, guilty and undeserving
 5. Humanly speaking, death is hopeless
 - a. And death is the result of sin – Romans 6:23
 - b. But now we have life
 - c. We have hope!
 6. It was the resurrection of Jesus that brought Peter hope
 - a. In fact, Peter references the resurrection in nearly every one of his recorded sermons in the book of Acts, making it the central theme of his preaching.
 - b. Acts 2, Peter’s first Spirit-filled messages is 23 verses
 - i. 13 of which are about Jesus’ resurrection!
 - ii. It was the resurrection that the people responded to at Pentecost
 - c. And other messages
 - i. Acts 3:14-26
 - ii. Acts 4:8-12
 - iii. Acts 10:39-40

- iv. Peter couldn't help himself
- v. Every time he preached, he centered his hope on the resurrection
 - 1. So, as he addresses these people in his letter
 - 2. He does the same thing
 - 3. Find your hope in the resurrection of Jesus!

b. By the resurrection of Christ

- i. 1 Peter 1:3 "...hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"
- ii. Peter, again, had a first-hand knowledge of this
 - 1. He was one of the first to arrive at the empty tomb
 - 2. He spent time with the risen Savior
 - 3. In fact, in almost every account of Jesus interacting with the disciples after His resurrection, Peter is there, front and center
 - 4. And it changed him...completely!
 - 5. Paul tells us it can change us too
 - 6. Romans 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."
 - 7. Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"
 - 8. If you know Jesus, your future is perfect and eternally **secure**
 - 9. **You can fix your hope on it!**
 - a. We don't have faith in faith
 - b. We have faith in a real, resurrected, Savior who really lived, really died, and really rose!
 - c. Death couldn't stop Him
 - d. He proved it with His resurrection