

Death Was Arrested; Acts 2:22-24

I. Value

- a. We are quick to assign value to just about everything – and normally it is according to the monetary cost
 - i. The average cost to raise a child is \$245,000
 - ii. We assign value to people based on their net worth – in the world the most influential people are the ones with the most money
- b. I would be quick to remind us that God took the form of man – not a king or some influential person – but the son of a carpenter
- c. Matthew 8:20 (ESV) ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”
- d. And He did this because He values us

II. Without Hope

- a. Ephesians 2:12 (ESV) ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- b. The Old Testament is filled with life lessons, and one of them for the Israelites was that sin required blood sacrifice
 - i. Leviticus 4 details the law for sin offerings – as a reminder, this Law is for Israel only and only for a certain time
 - ii. Blood sacrifices are required because “the life is in the blood”
 - iii. Leviticus 17:11 (ESV) ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.
 - iv. The principle for blood sacrifice also extended to the Gentiles
 - v. There could be no forgiveness without an acceptable sacrifice
 - vi. In Ephesians 2:12, Paul singled out the Gentiles – they did not know the promises given to Israel, the prophecies of the Christ, the Savior of the world
 - vii. They were truly without hope – “separated from Christ,” “without God”
- c. According to Dictionary.com hope is defined as “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.”
- d. “This can be used in terms of how we hope the weather will be good, how we hope we travel safely, or how we hope we arrive on time and skip traffic. We can use this word in everyday life. These are simply wishes or preferences and hold no weight. This kind of hope lies in uncertainty and the fact that we want to try to control the outcome.” ¹

¹ Cooper, H., & Silva, G. (2020, September 18). Two Important Ways the Resurrection is Our Hope. Retrieved December 09, 2020, from <https://bloggersforthe kingdom.com/resurrection-is-our-hope/>

- e. If you are separated from Christ, if you are without God, then you truly are without hope – Only in Christ is there hope
 - i. Galatians 3:26–29 (ESV) ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
 - ii. 1 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
- f. Only through the resurrection of Jesus do we have hope... and a release

III. Released

- a. The blood sacrifice of Jesus is the event that brought about atonement for us
- b. That event enabled every person on the face of this earth an opportunity for true hope
 - i. Acts 2:22–24 (ESV) ²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
 - ii. The grave could not hold Him (our hope), and by his resurrection we can gain access to the saving blood of Jesus – Paul alluded to it in Galatians 3:27, we put on Christ in baptism
 - iii. Romans 6:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
 - iv. Acts 2:37–38 (ESV) ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - v. Acts 22:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’
- c. We (who have been immersed into Christ) have been released from the bondage of sin
 - i. Romans 6:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

d. We are free!

IV. Freedom

a. Galatians 5:1 (ESV) ¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

b. Not the freedom to do whatever we want – we have always had that freedom

c. Freedom from the effects of sin

i. Because of sin, Adam and Eve (and all mankind) were separated from God

ii. Romans 3:22b–24 (ESV) ^{22b} For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

iii. Romans 6:7 (ESV) ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

d. Here is the truth – Jesus blood sets us free from the bondage (effects) of sin (separation from God) and unites us to Him through faith (which is where our hope is)

i. John 8:31–32 (ESV) ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

ii. John 8:34–36 (ESV) ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

e. All things point to the cross

V. Death Was Arrested

a. Jesus spilled His blood as the acceptable sacrifice for our sin

b. The grave could not hold the creator of both life and death

c. His resurrection guarantees our resurrection, our freedom from sin

d. Have you been washed in the blood of Jesus?