The Reason; 1 Peter 3:12-15

1. Different
	1. We are supposed to be different – there is supposed to be a marked difference in the way Christians behave and the way the world behaves
	2. The only way anyone will ever know we belong to Jesus is through our words and actions
		1. We talk differently than the world
		2. We act differently than the world
		3. We don’t have ulterior motives for our words and actions – only Jesus
	3. This difference is what draws people to Jesus – we act like Jesus and people want to know why
	4. 1 Peter 3:13–15 (ESV) 13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
2. The Reason for Hope
	1. We have often defined hope as the confident expectation (of Jesus resurrection)
		1. Listen to Matthew describe Mary’s eyewitness account of the resurrection
		2. Matthew 28:1–10 (ESV) 1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”
		3. “The empty grave is the one incontestable proof which has confounded every futile effort to cast doubt on the resurrection, and is an impregnable rock of truth upon which every attack of skepticism has invariably been shattered.” [[1]](#footnote-1)
	2. Without the resurrection of Christ’s body, what happened to the body?
		1. Did the disciples steal Him – they preached his resurrection far and wide and died for their preaching – would they have chosen to die knowing they died for a lie?
		2. Did the soldiers take Him – they would have produced the body and ended the talk of resurrection
		3. Indeed, the stone was rolled away – not to let Him out, but to let in the witnesses!
		4. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (ESV) 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
	3. “He is not here, for He has risen”
		1. We know Christ died – Pilate signed his death warrant
		2. We know how He died – we even have his last words
		3. We know how His body was prepared for burial – we know how it was wrapped and the spices used
		4. We know who buried Him and where
		5. Yet, the angels announced His resurrection!
		6. Yet, many people witnessed the risen Lord!
		7. “He is not here, for he is risen!”
3. The Reason for Peace
	1. John 14:27–29 (ESV) 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.
	2. Jesus’ peace is not the absence of conflict – there will always be conflict; even within the Body of Christ
		1. Matthew 18:15–17 (ESV) 15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
		2. Matthew 18:19–20 (ESV) 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
		3. Even in the midst of conflict we have the peace of Jesus – right there with us working through the conflict
	3. The peace of Jesus is, “and I will come to you” (John 14:28)
		1. Jesus’ leaving was (is) temporary
		2. He is coming back, and the knowledge of His return (to those who belong to Him) brings a peace that is beyond anything that conflict brings
		3. The knowledge of salvation is more than any trouble, trial, or conflict that this world can throw at us
		4. The world is upside down right now – What God says is sinful the world says is okay – yet we have peace
		5. It doesn’t matter who won the elections in Georgia or who is sworn in as the president on January 20th – Jesus is coming for those who belong to Him
		6. John 14:1–3 (ESV) 1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
		7. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (ESV) 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
	4. Our difference is our hope in the resurrection of Jesus and our peace in the knowledge of His return
4. Victory
	1. We have victory over this world!
	2. 1 Corinthians 15:50–58 (ESV) 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
	3. Don’t be afraid to show the world you are different – steadfast and immovable
	4. Don’t be afraid to show the world the reason for your hop and peace – always abounding in the Lord’s work
1. Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Matthew 28". "Coffman Commentaries on the Bible". https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/bcc/matthew-28.html. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)