

# Eternal Perspective



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## *Hope Springs Eternal*

I stood in our back yard the other day, which overlooks a wooded ravine and a running brook, and was in total peace.

Ahhh...spring.

Don't you just feel great?

The birds are chirping.

The trees and flowers are budding and blooming.

Spring just smells great, doesn't it?

Even when a spring shower rolls through, I still feel like singin' (and dancin') in the rain like Gene Kelly and his umbrella (although it would be slightly less elegant)!

And the cherry on top is that the greatest game ever invented (and God's personal favorite), baseball, has also started.

Ahhh....spring.

100 people were polled recently on Family Feud and the top answer was "spring!"

That was artistic license; sorry....but isn't there just something about this all-too-short season?

Because God is the God of order and does nothing by accident, I do not believe it is coincidence that the single most important event in the history of mankind – the resurrection of Jesus the messiah – happened in spring.

It is the season of rebirth and renewal.

It is the season of new life.

It is the season of hope!

The resurrection of Jesus certainly could have been ordained for the hot summer, or any of the other seasons and it would have held the same eternal importance.

But it didn't – it happened in the spring!

The hopeful, eternal spring!

So what exactly is hope?

Hope is actually assurance. It's a certainty born out of faith.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb 11:1)

In other words, we have hope because we can trust the outcome (more often than not, unseen) to a loving, immutable, omniscient God.

Hebrews 6: 18:19 tells us that because of the promises of God, we can hope. He will do the things he has said he will do. We can trust Him. We hope because our trust is not in our circumstances, but in our savior!

Hope is not "wishing." It is not crossing our fingers. It is not blind faith. We don't have to wring our hands in hope.

If we are a believer in Jesus, we can have real hope:

When we are grieved by various trials (1 Peter 1:6)

When we are persecuted because of our faith (2 Cor 4:7-18)

When we are lonely (Heb 13:5)

When we are hurting and in pain (Psalm 34:18)

Most importantly, we have eternal hope in our own future resurrection because of the resurrection of Jesus!

The apostle Paul, in writing his thesis on the resurrection of our Lord, and its implications on our own eternal resurrection, wrote this almost two thousand years ago:

*"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."* (1 Corinthians 15:13-19)

As Paul wrote (can't you hear the mechanisms of his legal brain at work?): if Jesus is still in the grave, then all was in vain, and we have no hope. We are dead in our sins and we are fools.

*If there was no resurrection, this would be all there is, folks.* Just eat, drink, and be merry because tomorrow we die. (Ecclesiastes, Isaiah)

However, if Jesus did rise on that glorious spring morning, oh, then the game was changed!

Death was exchanged for life.

And life is joined at the hip with *hope*.

The resurrection of Jesus then offers us a choice.

Do we continue to live only for this pitiful, lustful world? Or will we accept his payment for our sin personally, recognize he validated who he said he was by rising from the grave (exactly when He said he would, I might add), and immediately enter into a new glorious life!

Don't you want that? Don't you want to live every day filled with hope!?

It can happen. It can happen right now. Turn to Jesus today and make him King and Lord of your life, and live every day as if it was spring.