

**23 April 2017 - Second Sunday of Easter.**

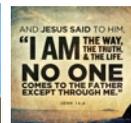
**Readings:** Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16; 1 Pet. 1:3–9; John 20:19–31.



**INTRO: A living hope – 1 Peter 1:3**, “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**.” Cf. Theme from *Mahogany*, the 1975 film, famously sung by Diana Ross: “Do you know where you're going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Where are you going to? Do you know? Do you get, What you're hoping for? When you look behind you, There's no open doors; What are you hoping for? Do you know?”



Ceriba ir laba lieta



### **I. “Do you know where you’re going to (and why)?”**

**John 14:4-5**, “You know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, **we don’t know** where you are going, so **how can we know the way?**”

Hope is NOT like whistling in the dark. “Ceriba ir laba lieta.”

**A living hope is a CERTAIN, GROUNDED HOPE.**

**1 Peter 1:3, 23**, “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**... you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, **through the living and enduring word of God**.” Cf. **John 14:6**. **Acts 2:32**, “This Jesus God raised up.”



### **II. “Do you like the things that life (God) is showing you?”**

**1 Peter 1:5**, “who by **God's power** are being **guarded (kept)** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

**A living hope is SPIRIT INSPIRED.**

**John 20:22**, “And with that **he breathed on them** and said, “**Receive the Holy Spirit**.”

**John 16:13**, “the **Spirit of truth... will guide you** into all the truth.”

**Romans 8:14**, “Those who are **led by the Spirit of God** are the children of God.”

**1 Corinthians 2:16**, “we have **the mind of Christ**.”



### III. “Do you get what you're hoping for? What are you hoping for? Do you know?”

**1 Peter 1:4, 9**, “to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven for you... for you are receiving** the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

**Hebrews 11:1**, “Now faith is the **assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**”

**Romans 8:24-25**, “Hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if **we hope for what we do not see**, we wait for it with patience.”

**1 Corinthians 15:19**, “If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

**Hebrews 11:13-16**, “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, **but having seen them and greeted them from afar** ... people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire **a better country**, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”

**1 Cor. 2:9**, “**What no eye has seen**, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”



**CONCLUSION: 1 Peter 1:8**, “Though you have not seen him, **you love him**. Though you do not now see him, **you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.**”

**Reckless Devotion, Day 89, 107.**