

may result in praise, glory and honour **when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

Our faith will result in praise, glory and honour, when Jesus Christ is revealed. The resurrection leads to the sure promise of the return of Jesus Christ. The angels said, *“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven”* (Act 1:11 - cp. John 14:3, 28, 1Thessalonians 4:13-18).

8. Personal Love – 1Peter 1:8 **“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy”.**

We all look for real love and acceptance. When we come to Christ, we experience his gracious unconditional love. Then we enter into the power of his resurrection (Philippians 3:10). Paul prays that *“Christ may live in us by his spirit, so that we may grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and know his love that surpasses knowledge--that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”* (Ephesians 3:16-19).

9. Everlasting Joy – 1Peter 1:8 **“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy”.**

The joy that Jesus gives lasts for eternity. This joy is a deep satisfaction and inner delight over the blessings we have in Christ. It begins the moment we are saved and will continue throughout all ages. Such spiritual joy is beyond human understanding.

There is a song that beautifully expresses this joy. The saints will sing it in heaven. *“And when we sing redemption’s story, they (the Angels) will fold their wings; for they have never known the joy, that our salvation brings.”* Jude

says, *“Jesus will present you before his glorious presence without fault and with exceeding great joy”* (Jude 24).

10. Final Deliverance – 1Peter 1:9 **“For you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”**

The Lord has promised to return and deliver us (save us) out of this world. Paul longed for this when he wrote, *“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father”* (Galatians 1:3-4). Again he said, *“We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation”* (2Thessalonians 2:13). The words ‘salvation’ in both of these verses are linked to the return of Christ to take his own out of this evil world. It is our final deliverance; our going home.

In this study, we have noted 10 blessings or fruits of Jesus’ resurrection. It is my prayer that you will find them a real encouragement and joy in your life this Easter.

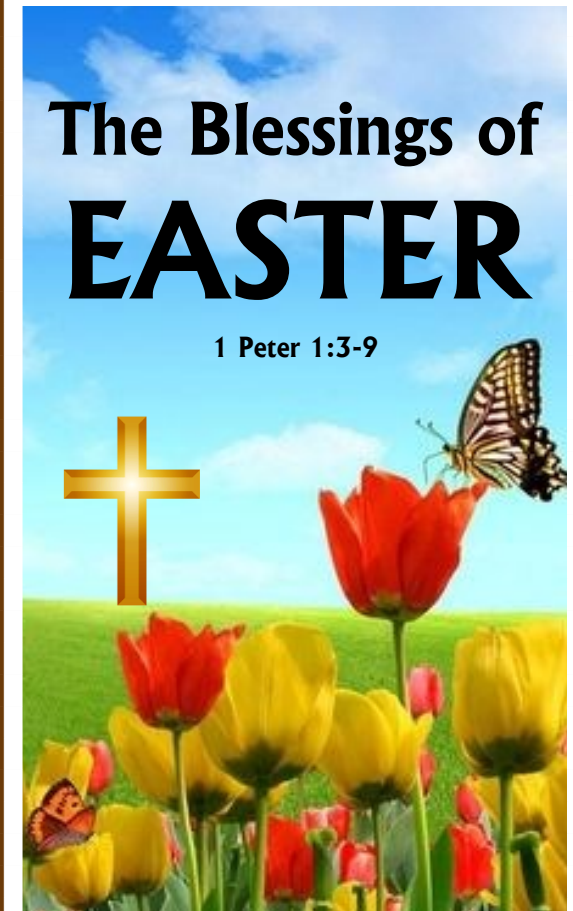
Take a fresh look at the Blessings of Easter.

The resurrection is the bedrock of our faith and from which we draw on every blessing that we have in Christ.



PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA 98366
www.prisonmission.org

“PMA provides Bible Correspondence courses in English and Spanish at no cost to inmates”



PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA 98366
www.prisonmission.org

“PMA provides Bible Correspondence courses in English and Spanish at no cost to inmates”

The Blessings of Easter

1Peter 1:3-9

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The resurrection of Jesus was the grand finale of his life and sufferings. From this one event, blessings upon blessings flow into our lives. Peter tells us of 10 blessings that come through the resurrection:

1. New Birth – 1Peter 1:3 - *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”.*

Without the resurrection there would be no new birth: If Christ had died for our sins, but had not been resurrected, we would have forgiveness of sin but no new birth. It would be like having a baby in the womb but no birth, forgiveness without justification; cancelling of our sin without the power to live a new life. The resurrection is the bedrock of our faith.

As Paul said, *“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith”* (1Corinthians 15:14).

Praise God, every believer can tell the story that by faith in Christ, we experience a new birth. We become *“a brand new creation, the old has gone and the new has come”* (2Corinthians 5:17). Jesus taught that unless you are born again you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3).

2. A Living Hope - 1Peter 1:3 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”.*

Because He lives, we too will live. Our hope is not in a dead Saviour but a living one. Hence our hope is real. It is not pretending, speculating or an opinion. We have the assurance within us.

We have the hope that we will see Jesus and be like him and receive untold riches in heaven with him. God will keep us intrigued forever.

3. A Sure Inheritance – 1Peter1:4 *“And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you”.*

The Lord has an inheritance in heaven for all who belong to him. Jesus is the guarantor of this inheritance. He has given us the deposit of His Holy Spirit assuring us of the full inheritance that we have in him. Jesus is preparing a place for us (John 14:1-3). This inheritance does not perish, spoil or fade. It is reserved for us!

4. Divine Power – 1 Peter 1:5 *“Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

The true believer is given supernatural divine protection till he gets to heaven. We are shielded by God's power. The words *‘kept or shielded’* by God's power, means to be ‘guarded with

a garrison’ of angels (Hebrews 1:14). The ‘guarding’ of God results in the peace of God in our minds and hearts (cp. Philippians 4:7). He keeps the hope alive!

Faith is the means of this protection. All God's blessings, including his preservation, flows into our lives through the connection of faith (Ephesians 2:8-9, 1Peter 1:21).

5. Joy in Sufferings – 1Peter 1:6 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”*

The manifold blessings of God, lead to rejoicing, even in suffering. It is not easy to live as a Christian in a non-Christian world. There will be persecution and heartache (John 16:33). But the believer keeps his eyes upon Jesus who suffered and died and rose again (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Our trials are only limited to our life on earth. The Bible calls them ‘momentary’ compared with the blessings of heaven (2Corinthians 4:17, cp. James 1:2,12).

6. Genuine Faith – 1Peter 1:7 *“These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*

Trials in the face of the resurrection have a purpose. They prove our faith and show it to be genuine. Gold along with all other elements will perish (cp. 2Peter 3:10), but human faith in Christ is imperishable, as it is based on the fact of the resurrection.

7. A Glorious Future – 1Peter 1:7 *“These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and*