

"Post-Easter Christians"

Holy Week 2026

April 5, 2026

INTRO ... It's EASTER SUNDAY!!! ...and it's also April 5th, 2026

...God Did Something Today—That "Transfers Into ETERNITY" ...&... Engages the Everyday of Earth!

Heb 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

... "DEATH" is a "Lifelong Trouble Maker"!!

"By avoiding the truth about death, we're avoiding the truth about Jesus. Jesus didn't promise us so many of the things we want most out of life. He promised us victory over death. So we must learn to see the shadow of death behind the problems of life before we can recognize the powerful relevance of Jesus to every obstacle we face. This is a book about death because it is a book about Jesus." **Matthew McCullough**, "Remember Death", p. 25

1Pet 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 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

...The Resurrection Delivers to us "a LIVING HOPE"!! ...Yes, there is an "ever-present-SHADOW"—but there is also a "Living Hope"!!

"The biblical word *elpida*, translated as the weaker English word hope, means profound certainty. Christians view even the hardest circumstances as part of a history guided by God at every turn toward not merely some kind of afterlife but toward the resurrection of our bodies and souls into new, remade heavens and earth. And all this hope centers on one explosive event—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is what Christianity offers a world that has lost hope." **Tim Keller**, "Hope in Times of Fear-The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter", p. xix

...So, there's a Daily Shadow and a Living Hope!! ...With this being true—What's it Like to Live Our Lives in a "Post Easter World"??

(1) Post-Easter Christians Still Have Doubts & Questions

Luke 24:1-12 ¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

...Lk 24 Opens with the Greatest Human Discovery EVER!! (There is a Remedy for DEATH!!) ...3 sentences into this story of all stories—and Jesus Heroic Disciples are "PERPLEXED"!!

v. 4 ...*"they were perplexed"* - because they Expected to Find the Body!!

v. 11 ... *"these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them"*

...There seems to be a consistent disciple making breakdown here!!

Lk 24:18-21 ... *"but we had hoped"* ... *"that he was the one to redeem Israel"*

Lk 24:22-25 ... *"²⁵ And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!'"*

Lk 24:36-38 ... *"³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, 'Peace to you!' ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"*

...Day 1 of Post-Easter Christendom is Not Off on an Impressive Foot! ...Not if your focus is on Man!

?? - *But What If the Real Hero of This Story is the Sovereign God who Always Knows What He's Doing—Even while his peeps are quite confused!?*

...Here's what "Clarity" Eventually Sounds Like in These Disciples! (~2 months later)

Acts 4:23-28

...You Can Be a "Post-Easter Disciple" ...and still have doubts, confusion, and uncertainties! ...Hang in there! Jesus is still ministering to the conflicted & confused! ...AND—God is Still Sovereignly Working to Get You to Acts 4!!

v. 21 ...*"But we had hoped..."* (and so do we!)

"Christians view even the hardest circumstances as part of a history guided by God at every turn ...The fact of the resurrection means we have a hope for the future not based on scientific advance or social progress but on God himself (1 Peter 1:21). ...Faith in the resurrection implants that hope into the root of our souls. It becomes such a part of who we are that we can face anything." **Tim Keller**, "Hope in Times of Fear-The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter", p. xix, xx

...Luke doesn't present "Sharp-Disciples" and "Human Clarity of Understanding" as the Basis for Our HOPE! ...The crowds cried out for Barabbas! The disciples went looking for a body! They understood Jesus kingship to be some local Roman/Jewish thing!

...Our Hope This Morning is NOT IN OUR ABILITY TO FIGURE THINGS OUT!! ...It is in the God who is guiding history!

(2) Post-Easter Christians Still Need the Ministry of the Word!

Luke 24:4, 5-8 ⁴ While they were perplexed about this... ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words,

... **"REMEMBER... how he told you"**

NOTICE: This "Remembering" is a Game-Changer! ...they go from a "Tomb-Ministry" to a "Telling-Ministry"!! (v. 8-10)

...Even in a "Post-Easter (& Post-Pentecost) Setting", the Ministry of the Word is Still Uniquely Necessary!

Luke 24:25-27, 32 ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ... ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

...They're having a crisis of belief (a confusing moment)—"foolish and slow of heart to believe"! ...What is Jesus "GO TO" ministry tool? ...the Word of God!

...the new "realities and tools" of Gospel Justification & Spirit Empowerment do Not REPLACE the Ministry of the Word, they Accompany It!! ...the News of the Resurrection still Needs the Witness of the Word!

Luke 24:44-48

-- In a Post-Pentecost-Day, be sure to make room for the way the Scriptures describe various ministry moments!

"he opened their minds to understand"

(3) Post Easter Christians Still Need the Empowering Ministry of the Holy Spirit!

Lk 24:49 "And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

...Powerful & Informative Insight!! ...3 Years of Discipleship Training! + The Finished Work of Gospel Justification + Resurrection-Restored Life ...BUT WAIT!!

-- Wait for What? ... EMPOWERMENT!!

"They had been with him, they had heard the preaching, they had seen him crucified, buried, risen from the dead, with the empty grave, and here he is, actually speaking to them in the room. But he goes on and says, 'And, behold, I send the promise of the Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.' They have the facts, they know and believe them, but before they can be effective witnesses they must receive this baptism with the Holy Spirit. ...That is the main purpose of the baptism with the Spirit, to make us powerful witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ and his salvation." **Martin Lloyd-Jones**, "Joy Unspeakable", p. 82

...(1) "Born again to a Living Hope" ... (2) "Clothed with Power from on High"

THESE... are the "Post-Easter Activities of the Holy Spirit in Our Daily Lives!"