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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

We Are Not Empty Inside

Paul said the resurrection was important for us. He pointedly put the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of His church together. He reasoned in 1 Corinthians 15 that if Christ did not rise from the dead, then our preaching is vain (empty) (verse 14). We are giving a false witness (15), and our faith is futile (17). He states that if Christ is not raised, we are not forgiven, but still in our sins. Also, there is no life after death; therefore we are hopeless (18-19).

When the Greek philosopher Socrates lay dying he was asked "is there life after death?" His response, "I hope so." That is pretty weak, but I think I understand. Those without Christ in their heart do not know the sweet spirit of hope that He gives. Peter said it this way. He told us to sanctify the Lord in our hearts and be always ready to give an answer for the "hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). I know what he means. When Jesus came out of the grave, through His Spirit He enters our hearts. We are not empty. We are not lost and wandering. We do not now live in darkness. The light of the presence of Jesus in our hearts shows the way. The light of the hope of Jesus for the future (both short term and long term) lives within. The hope of God ministered by the Son of God drives us. It gives us something to build on now, and something to look forward to in our future.

Jesus came out of the grave. The stone was rolled away. Now by His spirit He is within our hearts. By being raised, He is enabled to live with and within us. We are no longer empty.

Human beings live from inside out. That which is within us makes us persons. We think, feel, and relate in ways that only human beings can live. Meaning and feelings on the inside drive actions on the outside. We do what we do because our hearts lead us in that direction. Now here's the good news! We are no longer empty! His Spirit communes with our spirit. We are not alone anymore.

Living with Jesus