

# Seeking the Living Among the Dead

*Promise: to share in a resurrection like our Lord Jesus' resurrection*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 65:17-25; Ps 16; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; [Luke 24:1-12](#)  
(Easter Sunday, 4/17/22)

*If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*" – 1Co 15:19

**Lead In** – The first women who came to the tomb, along with other disciples who came later, they all had half an excuse looking for Jesus among the dead. What's our excuse? What's our excuse for looking for meaning and hope among the relics of the ages? And whether we realize it or not we do look for meaning and hope, because we cannot live without it. Another way of putting it is, that we are religious by nature. The question is where do we find hope?

## I. Looking Among the Relics of Time

- A. Ideologies and the list of 'isms'...
- B. The cities (polis) that we build...
- C. The self – today we even call it 'self-actualization'...

## II. Dashed Hopes at Jesus' Death and Burial

- A. A this-worldly, nationalistic hope...
- B. Certainly, this wonder worker could have...
- C. Still 2,000 years later our best hope IS NOT now...

## III. Sporadic Encounters Over 40 Days

- A. This morning, and empty tomb and two angels...
- B. Our hope: first fruits and the resurrection of the body...
- C. Fanciful glimpses in Is 65 and Rv 21-22...

**Parting Shot** – What this means for us... Our lives matter in this age. Because of the Resurrection of our Lord, those who are in Christ by faith can live in newness of life. In gratitude for the gift of salvation we can live out our vocations witnessing to the hope of the Gospel. And we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." And we further give witness as we live out our lives as if we knew this world were not our home. Lived out as not looking for hope among the relics of this age; that is, not looking for the living among the dead...

**Ec 3:11** He has put eternity into man's heart.

**'Isms'** – Liberalism, conservatism, progressivism, socialism, communism, fascism, secularism, materialism, traditionalism, modernism, transgenderism, the list and variety is endless...

**Cities** – The Tower of Babel contrasted with the Jerusalem that comes down from heaven.

**Is 65:18** But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

**Rv 21:2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

# Luke 24:1-12 ESV

*The Resurrection*

<sup>1</sup> But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> 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?" <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> 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.

**He 11:10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

**Ac 1:6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

**Mk 10:37** And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

**Mt 4:8-9** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

**Ph 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**1Pe 1:9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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