

# Four Words For What Easter Should Be Now

mercy, life, hope, heaven

1. It Shows Mercy

Sir Walter Scott

"Come he slow or come he fast, it is but Death who comes at last"

### Ecclesiastes 1:2-4

- "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."
- What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun?
  - <sup>4</sup> A generation goes and a generation comes, But the earth remains forever.

#### Ecclesiastes 1:2-4

Life is merciless; the resurrection is merciful

1 Corinthians 15:21

For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

Peter called God's mercy abundant

## 2. It Shares Life

"Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for" (1 Peter 1:3, MSG)

#### Three Greek Words For Life

1. Bios means physical life

2. Psuché means inward life

3. <u>Zóé</u>,

the most common in the Greek New Testament, means <u>age</u>-abiding life

# 3. It Shines Hope

## Hal Lindsey

"Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air... but only for one second without hope"

# 3. It Shines Hope

Ephesians 2:12

You live in this world without God and without hope

# 4. It Assures Heaven

The word *heaven* appears 142 times in the four Gospels

# Closing Thoughts

If the resurrection shows mercy—if the greatest enemy, death, has been defeated—then you've got nothing to fear

If the resurrection shares the life of Jesus Christ, then let's really live and risk a little bit more—you've got nothing to lose

# Closing Thoughts

If the resurrection shines <u>hope</u> and gives you a confident optimism for the future, then you should have nothing to <u>regret</u>

If the resurrection assures <u>heaven</u>, and the <u>best</u> is yet to come, then you should have nothing to hold onto

# Closing Thoughts

Easter shouldn't just be an event, a day, or a holy party, but a <u>lifestyle</u> that lingers longer than a day