

Back to Basics: Blessed Assurance

Scripture used: [John 14:1-3 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued the Back to Basics series on the theme of our hope for resurrection. In the Apostle's Creed, it is absolutely clear that, after His death, Jesus rose again. This indisputable fact enables the forgiveness of our sins, the resurrection of the body, and our assurance of everlasting life. As we confront death everywhere in our lives, we hear God say: "Trust me today, and trust me when you are at the end." There is life *before* life and *after* death.

KEY POINTS

1. **God knew us before we were born.** We are not accidents – we have been appointed. We are part of God's plan, we have purpose, and heaven is our home. [Ephesians 1:4-5](#) reminds us that we are not byproducts of chance, but we were planned in advance to join God's family. When we physically die, we do not cease to exist; we do not fade from memory and get disconnected from God's love. We may have had a broken life, but we have the promise of eternal life.
2. **Without the resurrection, life is useless.** [1 Corinthians 15:14](#). When Jesus died, the disciples went into hiding. And yet, when they learnt that Jesus was alive, they were no longer frightened. They became bold. They became community-builders, intent on growing the young church. The church took over the world at an extraordinary speed. [John 20:19a](#): Jesus says "Peace be with you". The disciples were unafraid, and truly filled with joy. The Apostle Paul, who had been a persecutor of the First Christians, became a builder of the church, dedicated his life (and fate) to his mission. Contemporaries were witness to the same. In the same way, we know that we will ultimately die, but that God has authority over death. [Revelation 20:14](#): "Death and the grave are thrown in the lake of fire."
3. **With resurrection, life is worth it.** We have the assurance of new bodies, as we experience a new heaven and a new Earth. [Philippians 3:21a](#): our weak bodies become glorious bodies. We gain expanded understanding and insight. We earn new relationships. We gain unimaginable new adventures. We can dream. This is life to the full. [Hebrews 12:1](#): the **cloud of witnesses**, referring to the many who have come before us. They lift the weight from us. They encourage us to run the race with perseverance. We must adhere to high standards - aim to be our "better selves." And, from the witnesses, we find focus, meaning, and definition.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - [Ecclesiastes 3:11 \(NIV\)](#) says that God has put eternity in our hearts. When you think about God's assurance of eternal life and salvation because Jesus has Risen, what difference does it mean to you? How is your perspective on life different because this life is not all that there is and that the promise of eternity is real?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [John 14:1-3](#). What does it mean to you that Jesus has prepared a place for you in heaven? Here at NBCC, we often say that God has the last word in our lives, even in the face of death, and that the last word is a word of life, hope, and salvation, so that even death is not the end. How does this assurance speak to your current circumstances? What are the times in your life when the hope and assurance of eternity matter the most to you? How would it change the way you live if the reality of eternity was something that was more present in your day to day thoughts?
- 3) **DO** - Stay tuned for the "Explore God" multi-church campaign coming to the Bay Area this September, that will ask the top seven questions about faith, and seek answers. Start to pray about those whom God might have placed in your life to be able to share this series and journey together. With regard to today's message, spend time in prayer this week asking God to make the hope of eternity with Him more present and real. Join us next Sunday as we continue toward the conclusion of our series, Back to Basics!