



## **Reasons for Inexpressible and Glorious Joy**

### **April 16, 2017**

### **John 20:1-10 & 1 Peter 1:3-9**

*“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).*

The apostles did not understand the Scriptures until after Jesus appeared and explained once again why He had to die and rise again for their sake and the sake of the world. The apostle Paul summed up this good news: “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Knowing all the evidence for Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, Christians have good reasons to believe in Jesus. Knowing why Jesus died for them, for the salvation of their souls, they love Jesus. Knowing that Jesus has prepared an “inheritance for them in heaven that can never perish, spoil, or fade,” they have good reasons to be “filled with inexpressible and glorious joy.” Moreover, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in them as a down payment on their inheritance, and the Holy Spirit fills them with “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (see Ephesians 1:14 and Galatians 5:22-23). Furthermore, “through faith God’s power shields Christians.” Because of these facts, even though Christians “suffer grief in all kinds of trials,” they greatly rejoice because their trials give them opportunities “to prove the genuineness of their faith that is refined by fire and will result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 1:5-7).

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## Thinking Further

1. Why do you think John omitted from his Gospel some of the important events surrounding the resurrection of Jesus that the other Gospels included; such as, the presence of the guards?
2. What reason did Mary Magdalene give Peter and John for why the tomb was empty? Why do you think she assumed this? Why is her assumption important evidence in support of the fact of the resurrection?
3. What importance do you place on the emphasis John placed on the tomb being empty except for the burial wrappings?
4. John said he believed. What do you think he believed? Give a reason for your answer.
5. Does someone need to see Jesus to become a true believer in Jesus? Why is this truth important for both believers and unbelievers to know?

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