

Easter Hope

We Christians are peculiar people.

Look, for example at the central symbol of our faith: the cross. We erect large crosses to identify our worship places. We place crosses as decorations in our churches. We even wear them as jewellery!

Yet, a cross is an instrument of torture and of shameful death. How can it have become such a powerful symbol of hope and new life for Christians?

At Easter Jesus was crucified, dead and buried. And on Friday When Jesus died on the cross, the hopes of all Jesus' family and friends died with him! They had pinned their hopes on him, and now their hopes were buried with him.

But on Sunday, everything changed! The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive!

The cross could not kill him. The tomb could not hold him. God is more powerful than cross or tomb!

Easter speaks into our lives when someone we love died.
Or when we face our own death.
It speaks into any situation that seems to be hopeless!
It promises that there is no situation so hopeless that God cannot transform it with new life and hope.

When we need to know who has power over life and death, the cross of Christ reminds us that when the world had done its worst, and put Jesus to death, death could not hold him.

It says to us, when everything seems hopeless – don't give up.
Believe that God who transforms death into life is working on it!
Trust God to weave the most unpromising experiences and situations of today, into a future with hope.

So, yes, the cross (that instrument of agonising shameful death) has become for Christians through the ages, a powerful symbol of hope, of life beyond death, of salvation!

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